BRITAIN'S **BEST** MILITARY HISTORY MAGAZINE

HISTORY of WAR

DOOLITTLE RAID

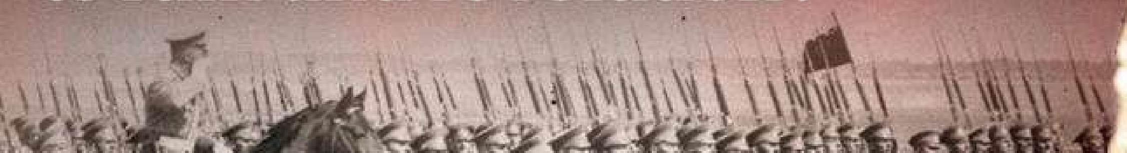
1st US STRIKE ON TOKYO

FUTURE
ISSUE 106

WWI's EASTERN FRONT

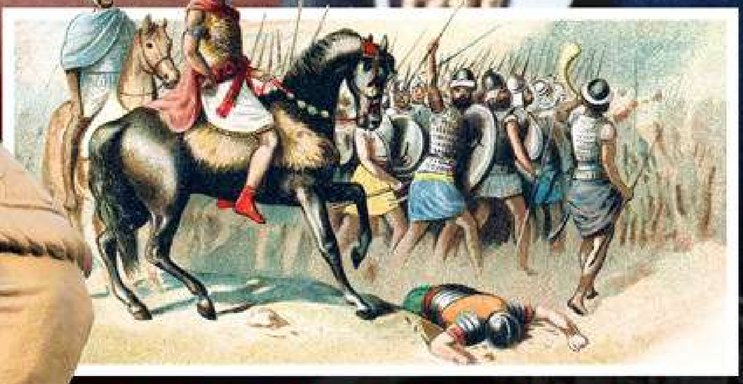
1914-1918

Did the Tsar march his empire to ruin and revolution?



PLUS:

- Falklands War
- Mk. IV Light Tank
- Invasion of Britain



KOREA'S NELSON

The genius admiral who crushed a samurai invasion

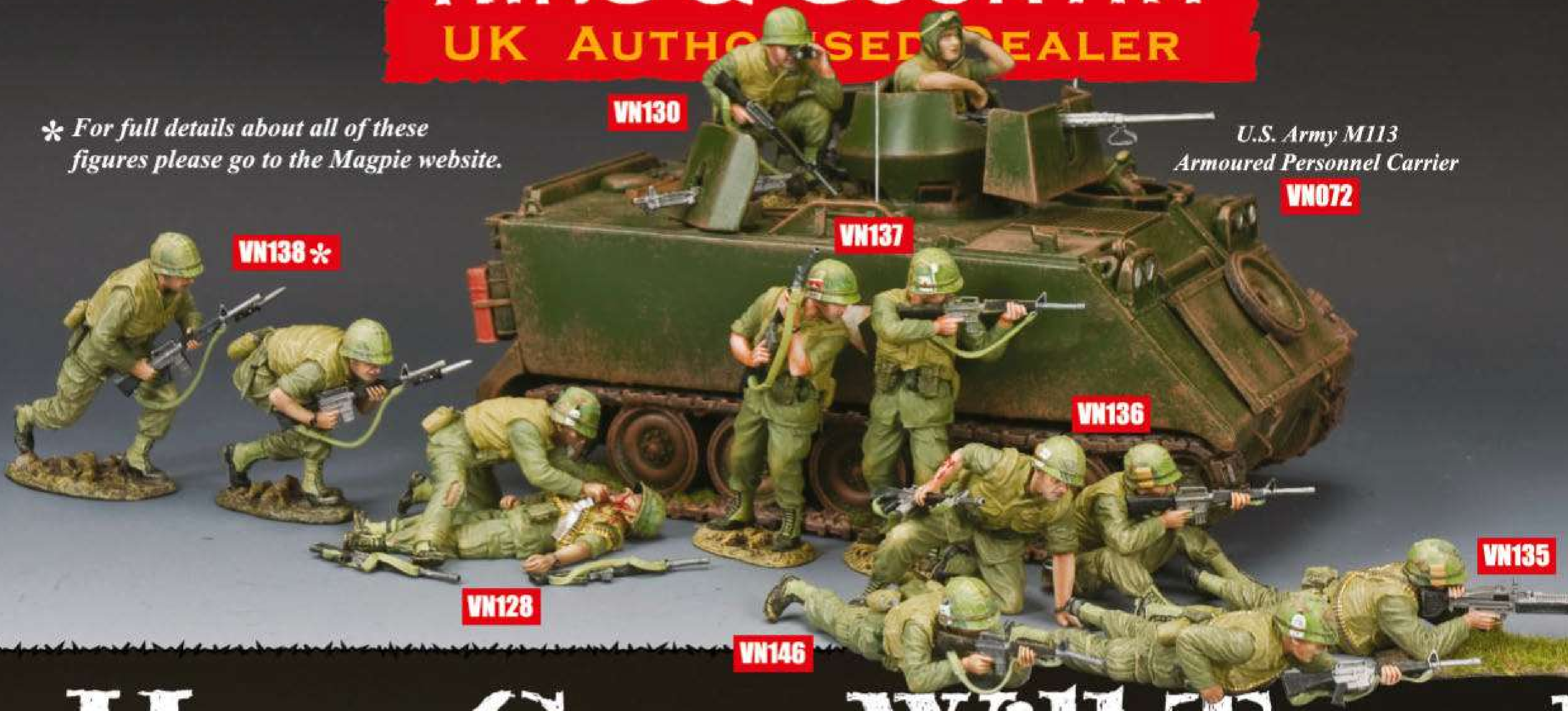
BATTLE OF CANNAE

How Hannibal outwitted the Romans on their own turf

HELL IN THE HANOI HILTON

Inspiring prisoner of war story of endurance and survival

KING & COUNTRY
UK AUTHORISED DEALER



* *For full details about all of these figures please go to the Magpie website.*

Have Guns Will Travel

When it comes to depicting the Vietnam War in 1:30 scale, all-metal, hand-painted miniatures no company produces as many or as varied a selection of figures and fighting vehicles as KING & COUNTRY.

Among K&C's latest and upcoming releases are a number of single and 2-figure sets of *U.S. Marines* in action in the middle of the *1968 TET Offensive.*

Providing cover and firepower support for these Marines is the iconic U.S. Army *M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier* which saw plenty of active service throughout the war and for many years afterwards.

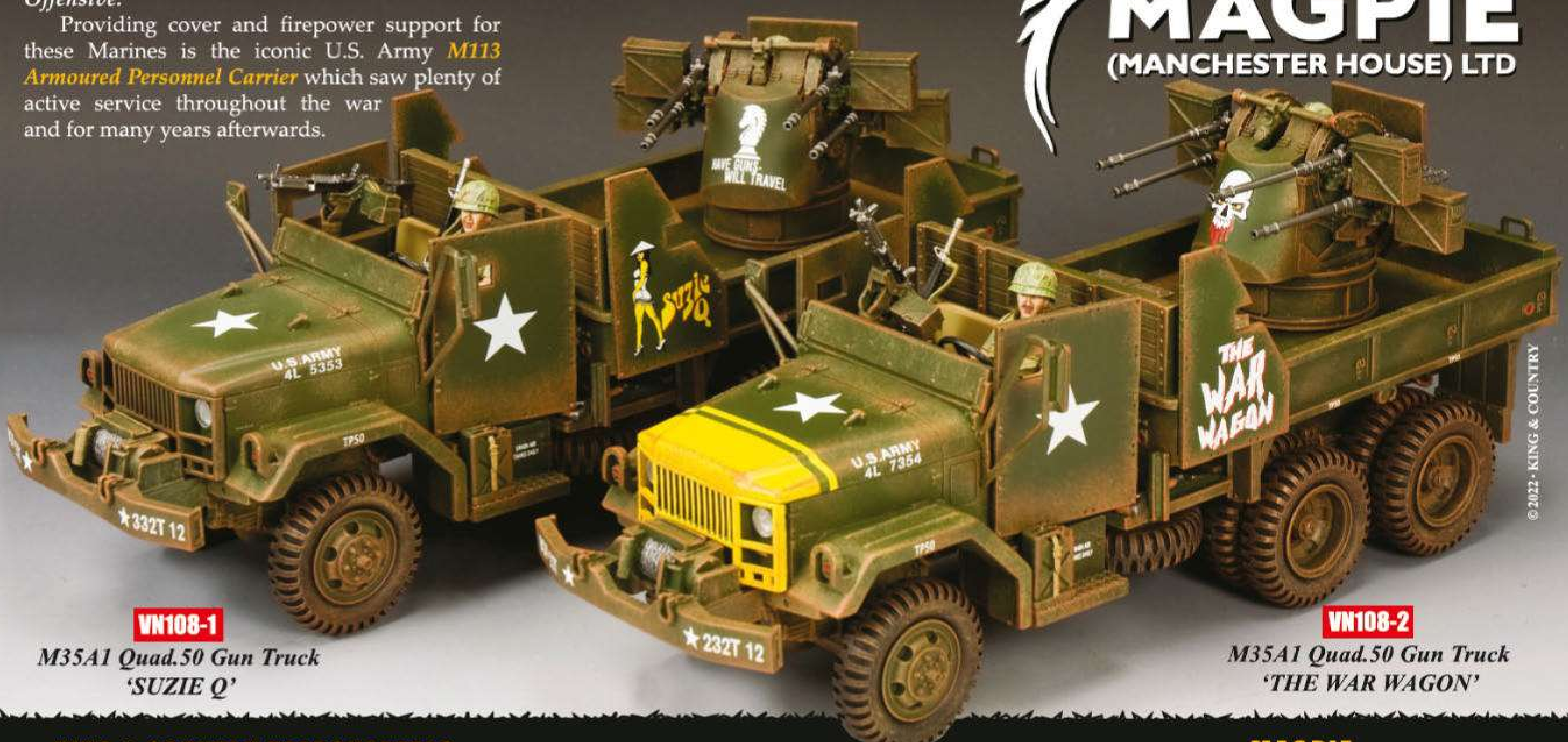
Even more support comes in the shape of these two, soon-to-be-released *M35A1 'GUN TRUCKS'* each armed with the special turret-mounted *Quad .50 Calibre* machine guns.

Put some or all of these action-packed items together and you have a dynamic display of just one part of the conflict in Vietnam during the mid to late 1960s.

TO FIND OUT MORE...

About these very unique K&C figures and fighting vehicles or the company's many other fine historical ranges of 1:30 scale miniatures simply contact Britain's biggest and best *Authorised King & Country Dealer.*

MAGPIE
(MANCHESTER HOUSE) LTD



VN108-1
M35A1 Quad.50 Gun Truck
'SUZIE Q'

VN108-2
M35A1 Quad.50 Gun Truck
'THE WAR WAGON'

© 2022 · KING & COUNTRY

KING & COUNTRY HEADQUARTERS
Suite 2301, 23rd Floor, No.3 Lockhart Road,
Wanchai,
Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2861 3450
E-mail: sales@kingandcountry.com

MAGPIE OPENING TIMES
DAILY 9:00AM - 5:30PM
CLOSED WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

MAGPIE
1 High Street, Evesham
Worcestershire, WR11 4DA. England UK
Tel: 01386 41631
eBay shop: Manchester House Collectables
Email: magpie2500@aol.com

© Getty

CONTRIBUTORS

MURRAY DAHM

History of War regular Murray returns to one of his favourite topics: Ancient Rome. For this issue's Frontline he recounts the Roman invasion(s) of Britain (p12). On page 44 he tells the harrowing story of Medal of Honor recipient James Stockdale, a POW in the Vietnam War.

HARETH AL BUSTANI

This month Hareth turns his hand to one of the most significant battles in ancient history: Cannae. For our Great Battles feature he relates how Hannibal's invading army was able to best the Roman legions on their own doorstep (p50).

MIKE HASKEW

As well as this issue's cover feature, this month Mike also researched the Doolittle Raid – the audacious US bombing run on Tokyo that shocked Japan 80 years ago this month. Read how the mission was planned and pulled off on page 38.

Welcome

Here in the UK, at least when I was at school, the First World War was taught very much as a gruelling battle of attrition, featuring trenches, rats, poets and poppies. Little of the 'world' conflict was really explored in any great detail – which is why this issue was fascinating to rectify that gap in my own knowledge with a feature on the Eastern Front. With a vast frontline stretching from the Baltics to the Balkans, Russia's experience of World War I was characterised by tragic blunders and horrific disorganisation. Ultimately this plunged the nation into civil war and changed the country, as well as the much of the world's course, for more than a century.

Tim

Tim Williamson
Editor-in-Chief

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE!
Take advantage of our fantastic subscription offers and get **History of War** for less than half price!

HISTORY OF WAR
WWI's EASTERN FRONT

TURN TO PAGE 48

WWI'S EASTERN FRONT

1914-1918

24 Did the Tsar march his country to revolution and his own downfall during the First World War?

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE
Turn to page 48 for incredible subscription offers

FRONTLINE

ROMAN INVASIONS OF BRITAIN

12 TIMELINE
From early encounters to full conquest, Rome's invasions of the islands were met with fierce resistance

16 THE NEW FRONTIER
With much of Western Europe under Roman rule, Great Britain presented rich opportunities further north

18 THE ROMAN ARMY
Rome's occupation and settlement in Britain was at all times supported by the legions

20 RESISTANCE AND REBELLION
Many tribal leaders fought against Rome's rule, including the mythologised Boudicca

22 DIVIDING BRITAIN
To control its new territory, as well as its own internal politics, Rome carved up the island

12

06

06 WAR IN FOCUS
Stunning imagery from throughout history

24 THE TSAR'S WAR
Did Nicholas II doom his empire when he marched it into the First World War?

32 SHORT HISTORY OF A LONG DISAGREEMENT
Part 1 of Nick Van Der Bijl's series into the history of the 1982 Falklands War

38 DOOLITTLE RAID
In April 1942 the US pulled off an audacious long-distance bombing raid on Japan's capital

HEROES OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

44 JAMES STOCKDALE
This navy pilot officer was the highest ranking US POW of the Vietnam War

GREAT BATTLES

50 CANNAE, 216 BCE
Hannibal's successful invasion of the Italian peninsula is met by Rome's legions

58 ADMIRAL YI SUN-SIN
This famed naval commander halted Japan's invasions of the Korean peninsula

OPERATOR'S HANDBOOK

62 MARK IV LIGHT TANK
Britain's plucky inter-war armour

38

CLAIM YOUR 3 FREE eBOOKS
Follow the link to download
bit.ly/WAR-106

ROMANOVS
RUSSIAN REVOLUTION
STORY OF THE EASTERN FRONT

70

69 HOMEFRONT

70 ON THE CUSP OF WORLD WAR III
Roger Hermiston discusses why 1953 was one of the most dangerous years in human history

72 MUSEUMS & EVENTS
A roundup of exhibitions and collections

74 WWII IN PHOTOS
Key WWII events this month, 80 years ago

76 REVIEWS
The latest military history films and books

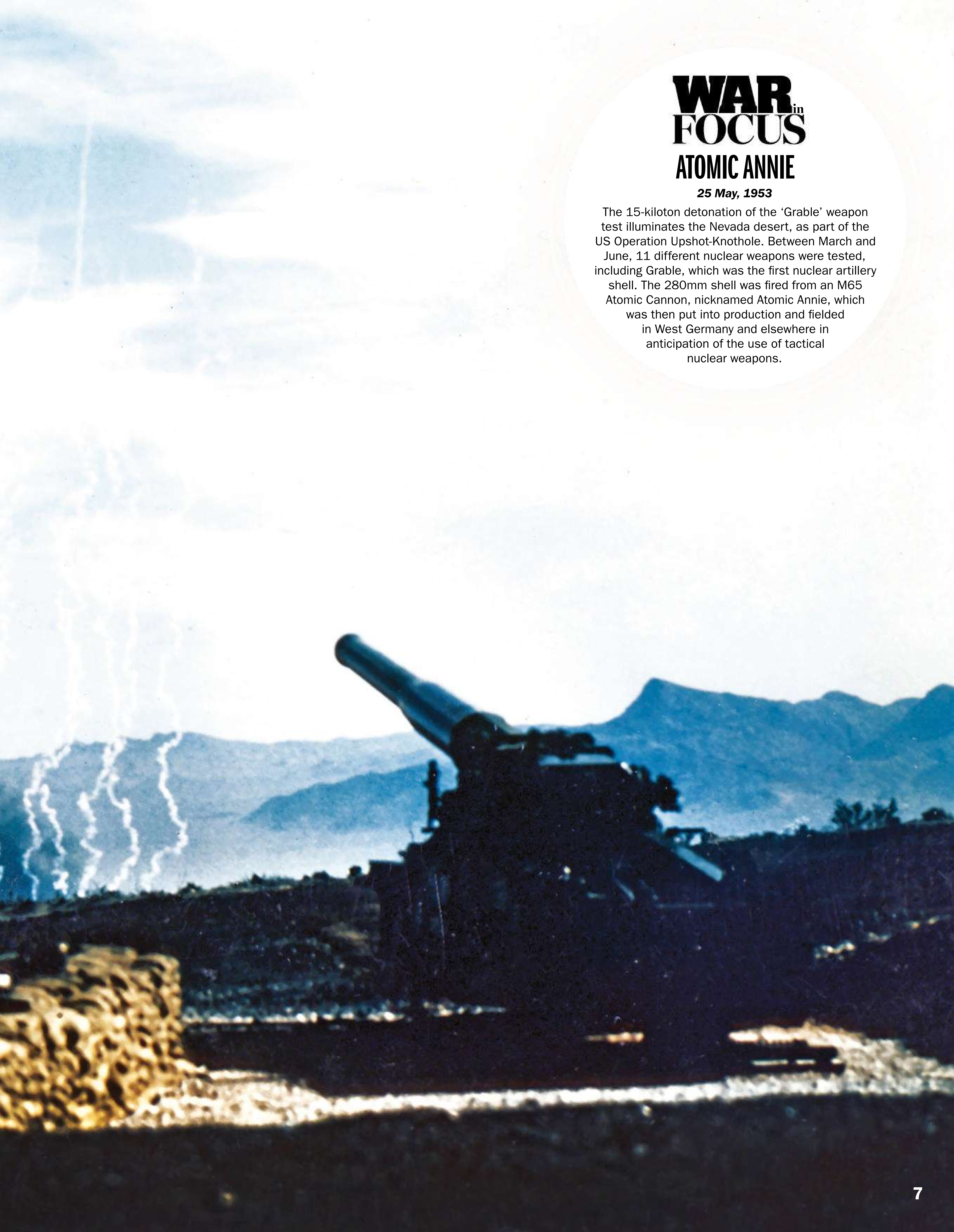
82 ARTEFACT OF WAR
A fearsome samurai mask designed to terrify the enemy and protect the wearer

Image: Wiki / PD / Gov

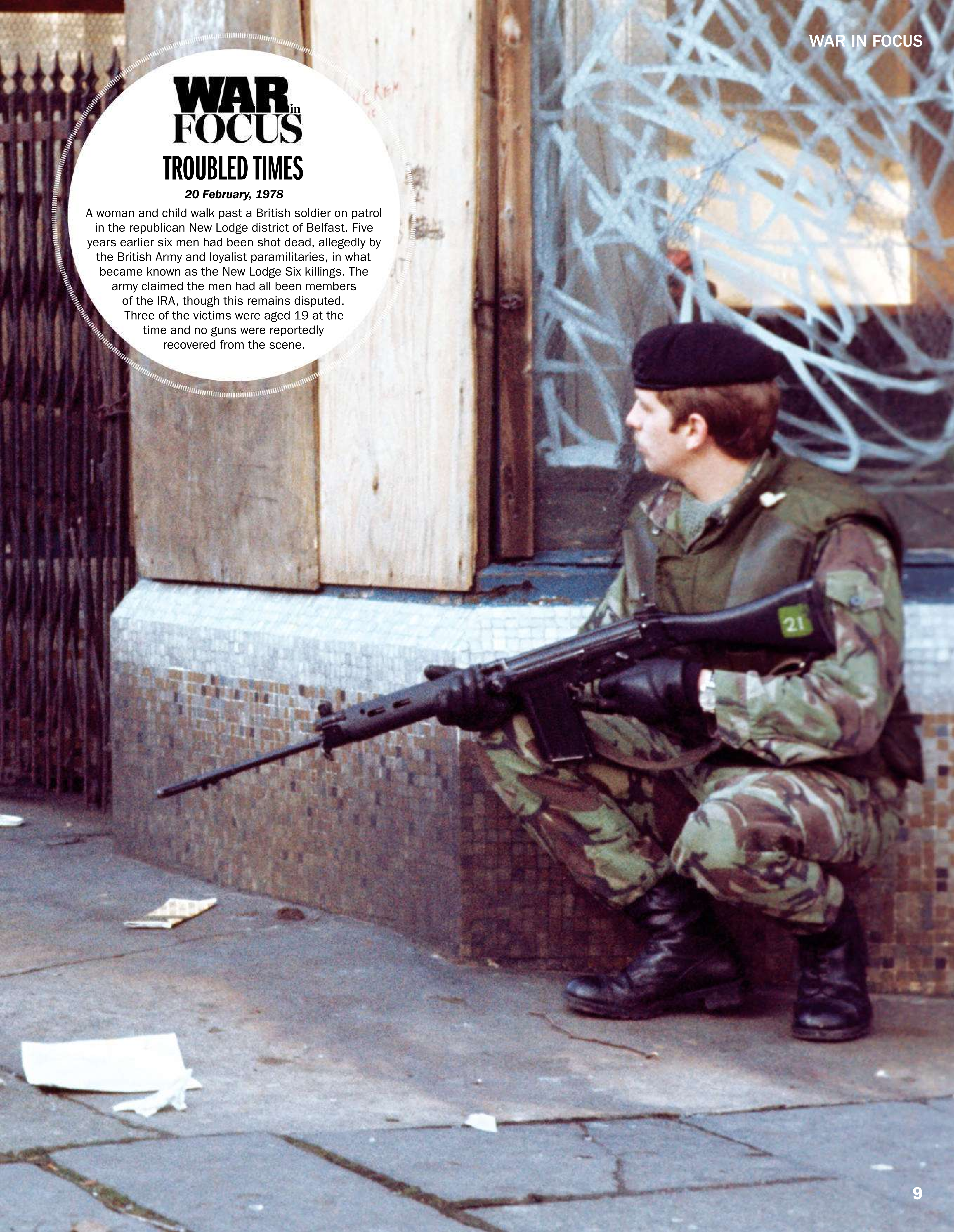
ATOMIC ANNIE

25 May, 1953

The 15-kiloton detonation of the ‘Grable’ weapon test illuminates the Nevada desert, as part of the US Operation Upshot-Knothole. Between March and June, 11 different nuclear weapons were tested, including Grable, which was the first nuclear artillery shell. The 280mm shell was fired from an M65 Atomic Cannon, nicknamed Atomic Annie, which was then put into production and fielded in West Germany and elsewhere in anticipation of the use of tactical nuclear weapons.



© Getty

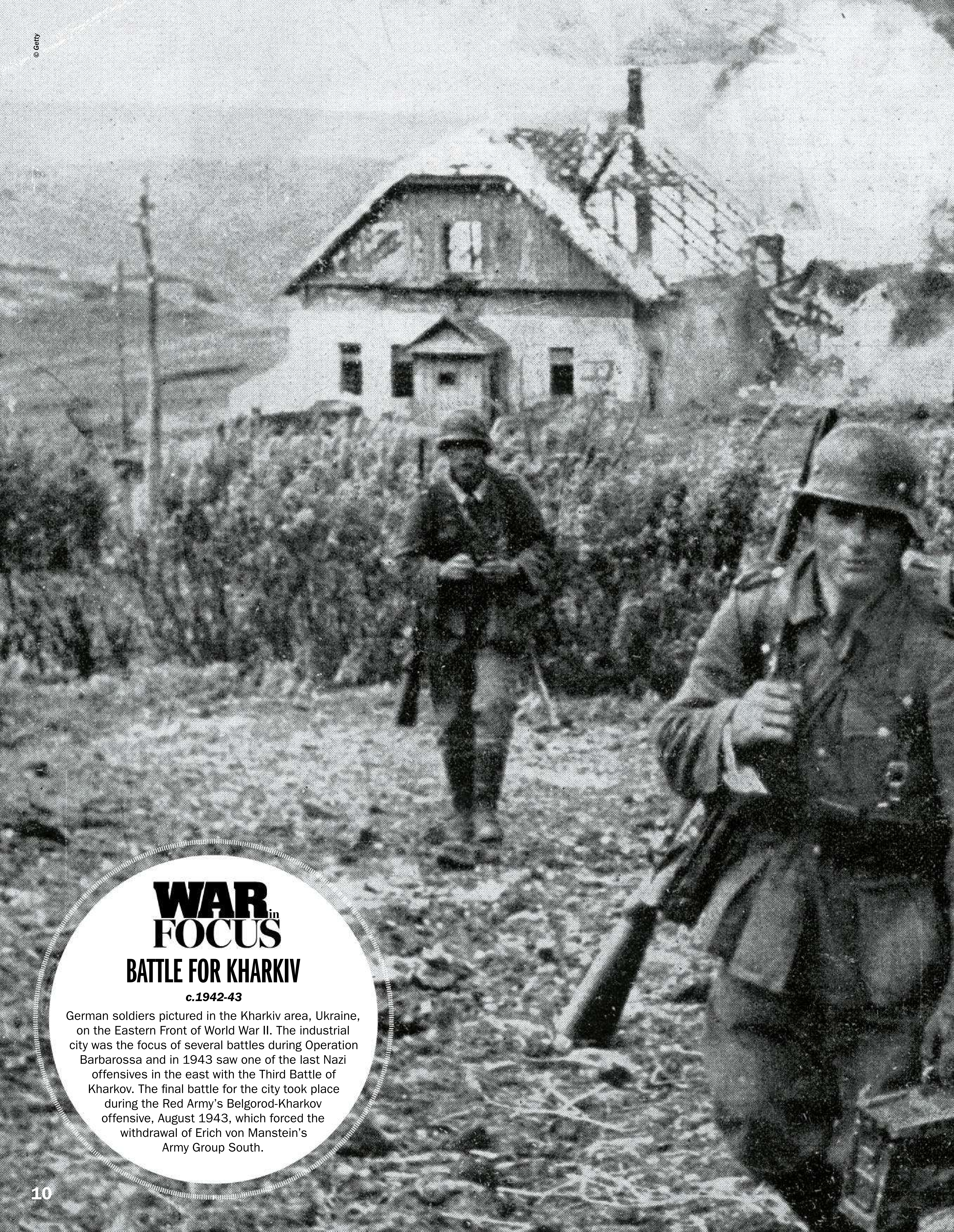


WAR in FOCUS

TROUBLED TIMES

20 February, 1978

A woman and child walk past a British soldier on patrol in the republican New Lodge district of Belfast. Five years earlier six men had been shot dead, allegedly by the British Army and loyalist paramilitaries, in what became known as the New Lodge Six killings. The army claimed the men had all been members of the IRA, though this remains disputed. Three of the victims were aged 19 at the time and no guns were reportedly recovered from the scene.



© Getty

WAR in FOCUS

BATTLE FOR KHARKIV

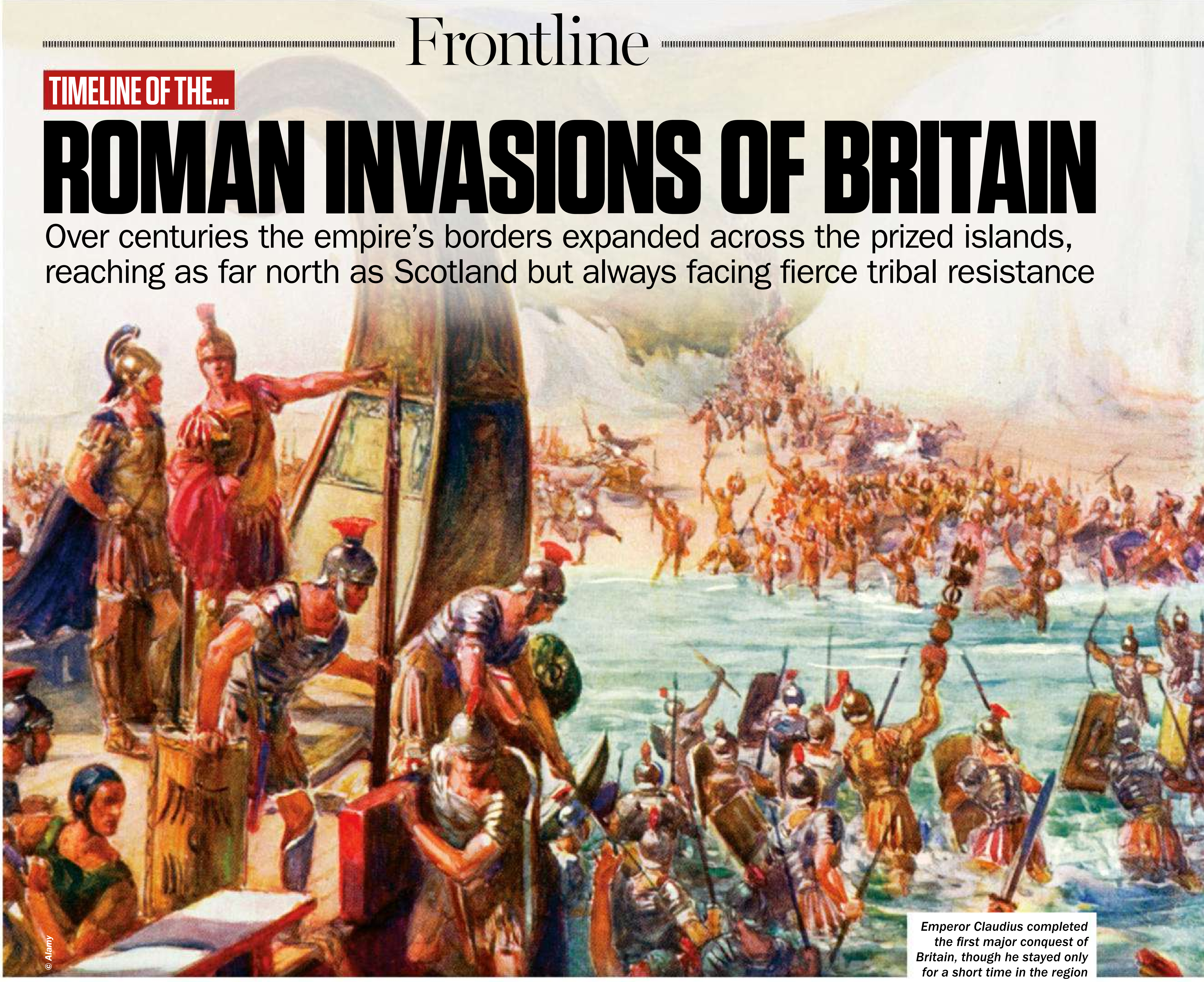
c.1942-43

German soldiers pictured in the Kharkiv area, Ukraine, on the Eastern Front of World War II. The industrial city was the focus of several battles during Operation Barbarossa and in 1943 saw one of the last Nazi offensives in the east with the Third Battle of Kharkov. The final battle for the city took place during the Red Army's Belgorod-Kharkov offensive, August 1943, which forced the withdrawal of Erich von Manstein's Army Group South.

TIMELINE OF THE…

ROMAN INVASIONS OF BRITAIN

Over centuries the empire's borders expanded across the prized islands, reaching as far north as Scotland but always facing fierce tribal resistance



© Alamy

Emperor Claudius completed the first major conquest of Britain, though he stayed only for a short time in the region

4th – 1st millennium BCE

A RICH RESOURCE ⓪①

Britain, especially the Cornish peninsula, becomes vital for Europe's supply of tin, which is necessary for the creation of weapons and other equipment during the Bronze Age. Isolated from the continent by the channel, Britain's tribes nonetheless conduct trade and build diplomacy with their neighbours to the south.

55-54 BCE

JULIUS CAESAR ARRIVES

Julius Caesar launches two punitive raids against tribes in Britain. Cassivellaunus leads an alliance of tribes against Caesar but is defeated and surrenders. The Trinovantes in south-eastern Britain (the most powerful tribe) are set up as a client kingdom under Roman rule.

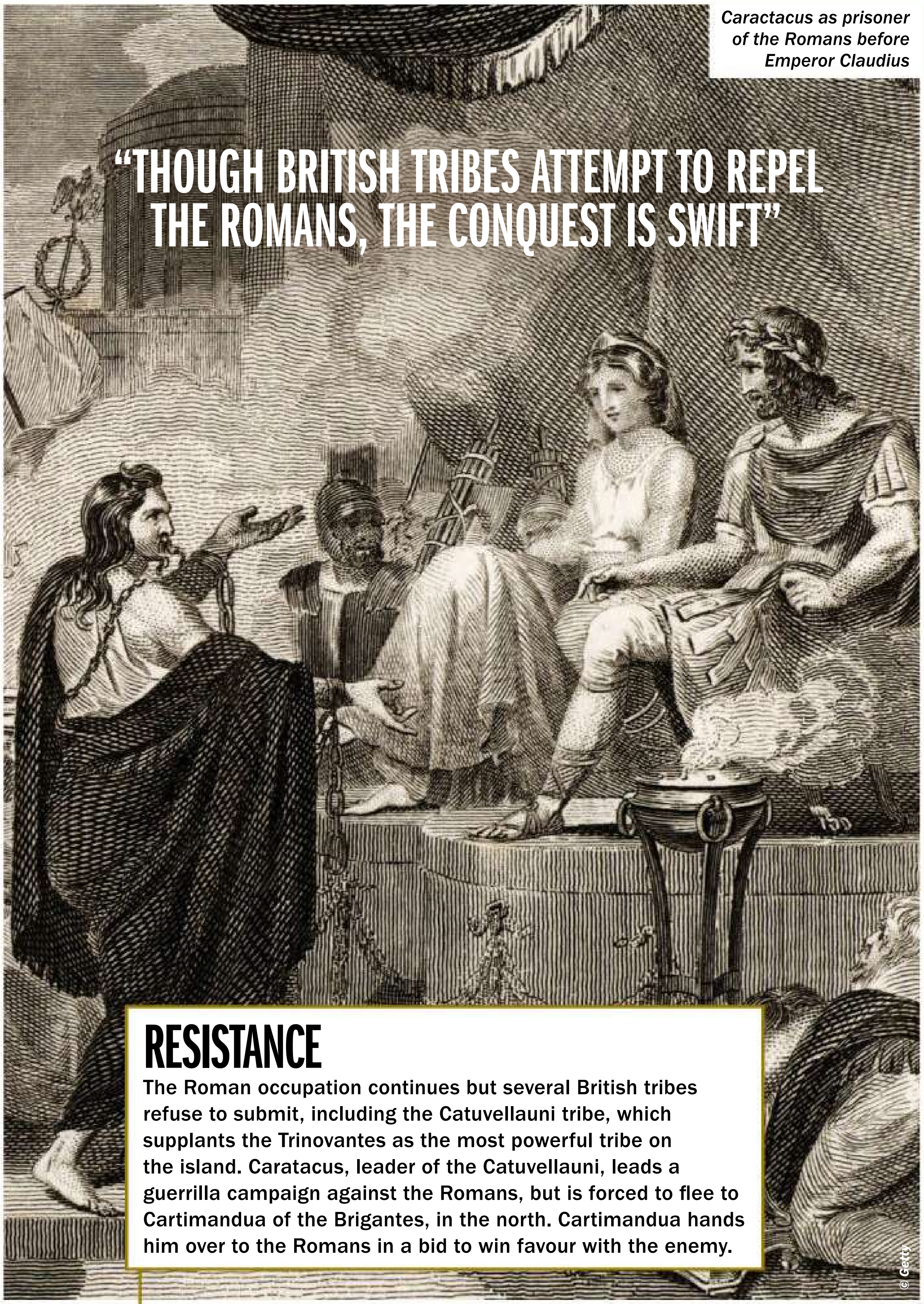
Below: *An 18th century marble relief depicting Julius Caesar invading Britain*

© Getty

43 CE

CLAUDIUS CONQUERS ⓪②

Emperor Claudius completes a full invasion of Britain, with the purpose of conquering the entire region. Including four Roman legions – the 2nd Augusta, 9th Hispana, 14th Gemina and the 20th Valeria Victrix – the invasion forces land on the south-east coast, likely Richborough. Though British tribes attempt to repel the Romans, the conquest is swift and the Trinovantes capital of Camulodunum (Colchester) is taken and later turned into a major Roman power base in the region.



Caractacus as prisoner of the Romans before Emperor Claudius

© Getty

> “THOUGH BRITISH TRIBES ATTEMPT TO REPEL THE ROMANS, THE CONQUEST IS SWIFT”

RESISTANCE

The Roman occupation continues but several British tribes refuse to submit, including the Catuvellauni tribe, which supplants the Trinovantes as the most powerful tribe on the island. Caratacus, leader of the Catuvellauni, leads a guerrilla campaign against the Romans, but is forced to flee to Cartimandua of the Brigantes, in the north. Cartimandua hands him over to the Romans in a bid to win favour with the enemy.

50-51 CE

52-57 CE

INVASION OF THE NORTH 03

After the fall of the southern tribes, the kingdom of the Brigantes at first attempts to ally themselves with Rome, but then takes up active resistance and refuses to submit. Rome’s legions begin campaigning against the Brigantes from around 52 CE, though resistance continues into the 70s CE.

These coins were part of a Roman hoard found in East Yorkshire, the heart of the former kingdom of the Brigantes

© Alamy

60 CE

ICENI UPRISING 04

With Rome’s army now reaching as far as north Wales, Boudicca of the Iceni, in Norfolk, revolts. She razes the Roman capital of Camulodunum, before marching further south and sacking Londinium and later Verulamium (St Albans). She is defeated by the Roman governor Suetonius Paulinus, somewhere along Watling Street, between St Albans and Wroxeter.

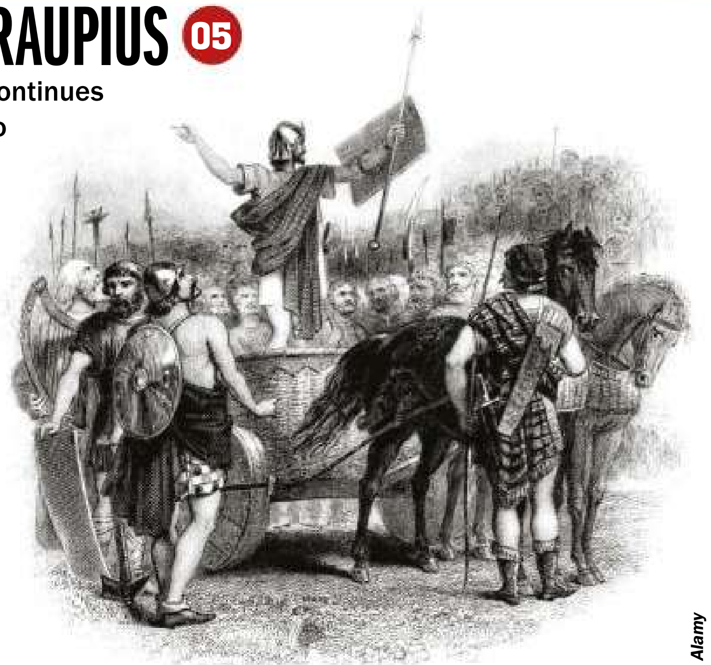
Statue of Boudicca, the leader of the Iceni uprising against Roman rule

© Getty

70-83 CE

BATTLE OF MONS GRAUPIUS 05

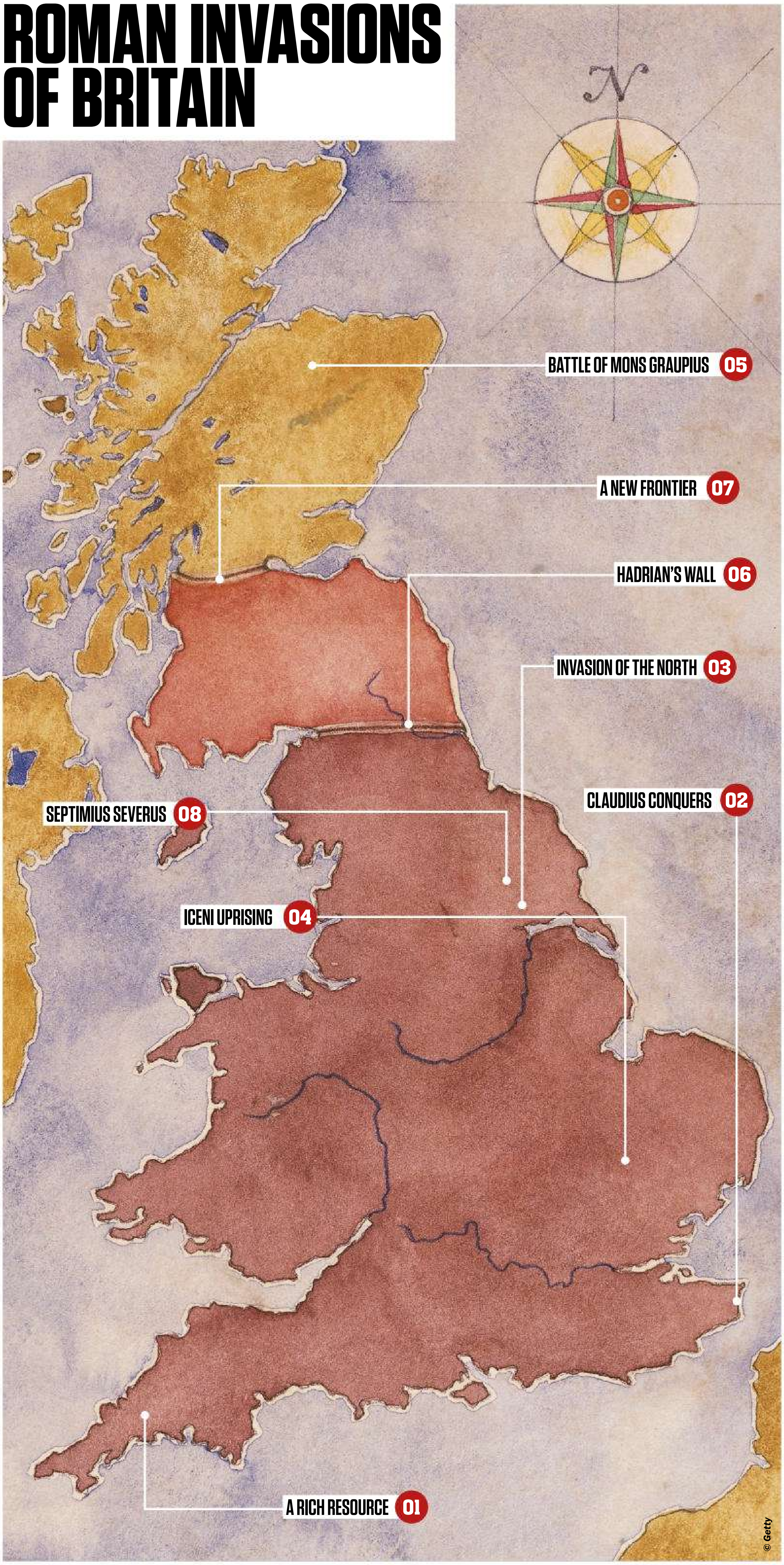
Conquest into northern Britain continues under successive governors, who are forced to reconquer Wales and then move into Caledonia (Scotland) under Gnaeus Julius Agricola. The final battle of conquest at Mons Graupius is fought possibly in 82-83 CE. Though the histories recount a Roman victory, this is one of the last major incursions into northern Caledonia.



A depiction of the tribal leader Calgacos, or Galgacus, whom Tacitus attributes to leading the Celtic forces against the Romans at Mons Graupius

© Alamy

ROMAN INVASIONS OF BRITAIN

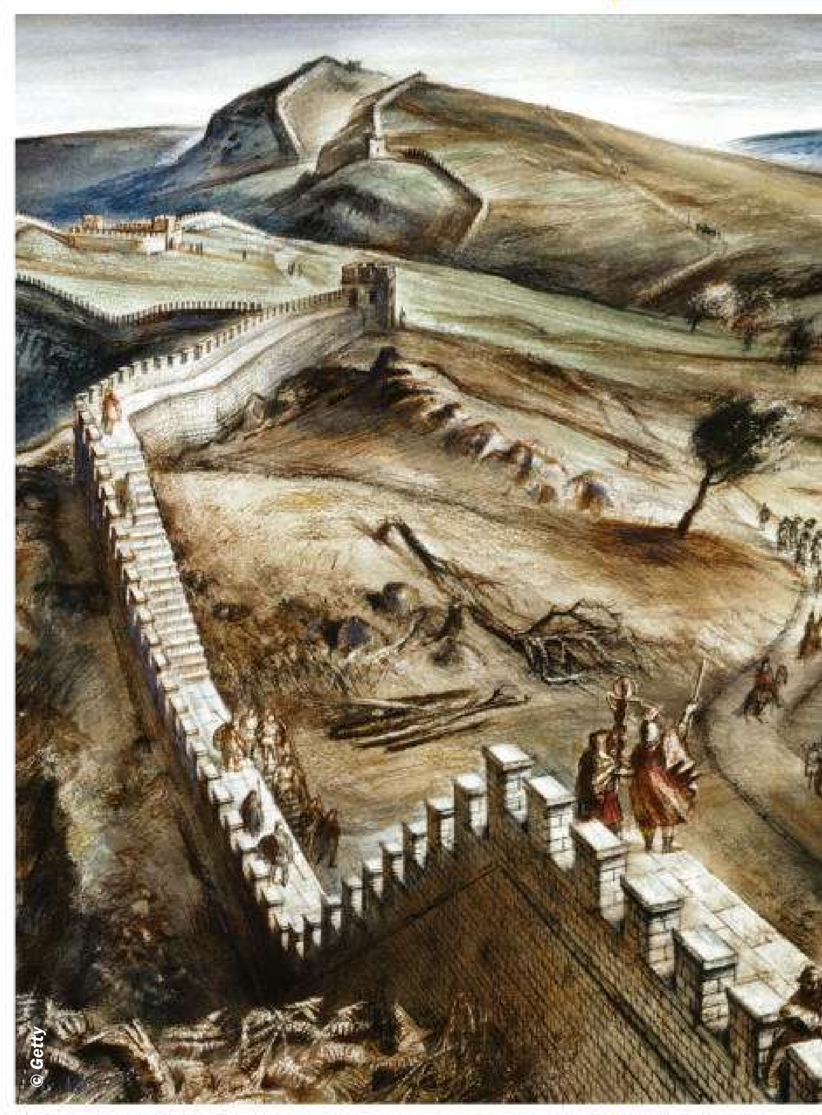

N
BATTLE OF MONS GRAUPIUS 05
A NEW FRONTIER 07
HADRIAN'S WALL 06
INVASION OF THE NORTH 03
CLAUDIUS CONQUERS 02
SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS 08
ICENI UPRISING 04
A RICH RESOURCE 01

© Getty

HADRIAN'S WALL 06

Previously protected only by a series of fortifications, the northern border with Caledonia is reinforced with a new defensive wall on the Tyne-Solway line. The wall, covering 118km and named after the Emperor Hadrian, defines the northernmost border of Roman Britain, and the northernmost limits of the Roman Empire. A series of forts are built further south of the wall with auxiliary garrisons to support the frontier.

An illustration depicting how Hadrian's Wall may have looked in Roman times



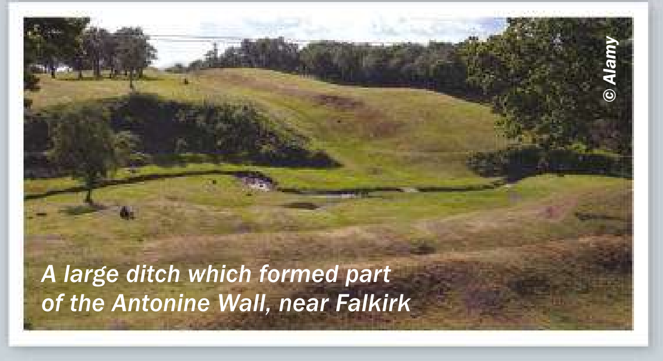
© Getty

122-128 CE

142-162 CE

A NEW FRONTIER 07

Abandoning Hadrian's Wall, the Romans establish a second defensive structure 113km further north into Caledonia, on the Clyde-Forth line. Named the Antonine Wall, the structure is a lot shorter than Hadrian's Wall, is around three meters high, and is for the most part built with earth ramparts and ditches. By 162 CE, the border is established once more as Hadrian's Wall.

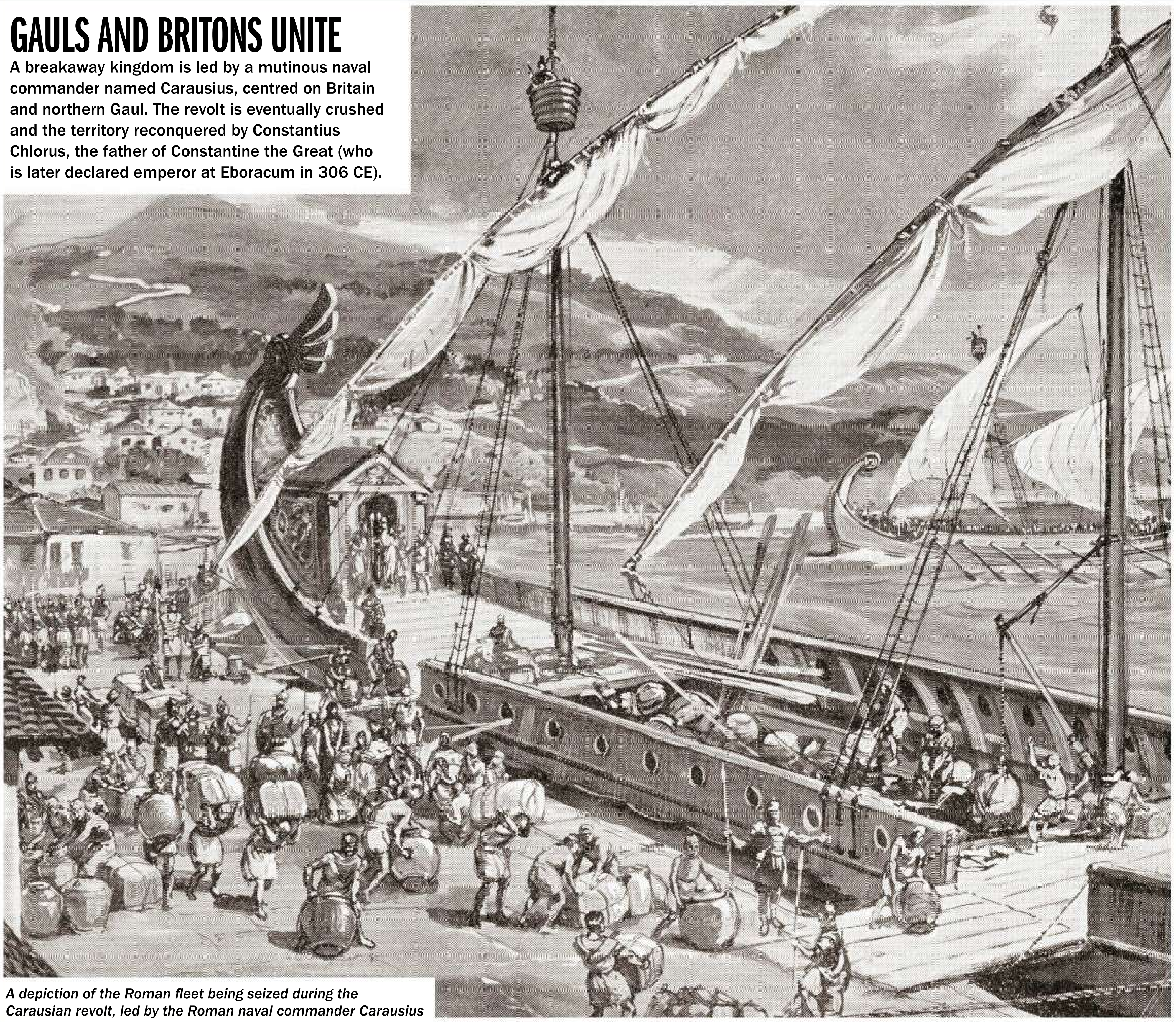


A large ditch which formed part of the Antonine Wall, near Falkirk

© Alamy

GAULS AND BRITONS UNITE

A breakaway kingdom is led by a mutinous naval commander named Carausius, centred on Britain and northern Gaul. The revolt is eventually crushed and the territory reconquered by Constantius Chlorus, the father of Constantine the Great (who is later declared emperor at Eboracum in 306 CE).



A depiction of the Roman fleet being seized during the Carausian revolt, led by the Roman naval commander Carausius

© Alamy

286-296 CE

208-211 CE

410 CE

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS 08

Emperor Septimius Severus arrives in Britain and strengthens Hadrian's Wall, before making plans to invade Caledonia and expand the empire north. He dies at Eboracum (York) in 211 CE and is succeeded by his sons Caracalla and Geta, who are with him on campaign but abandon the plans to invade further north. They take the emperor's ashes back to Rome.

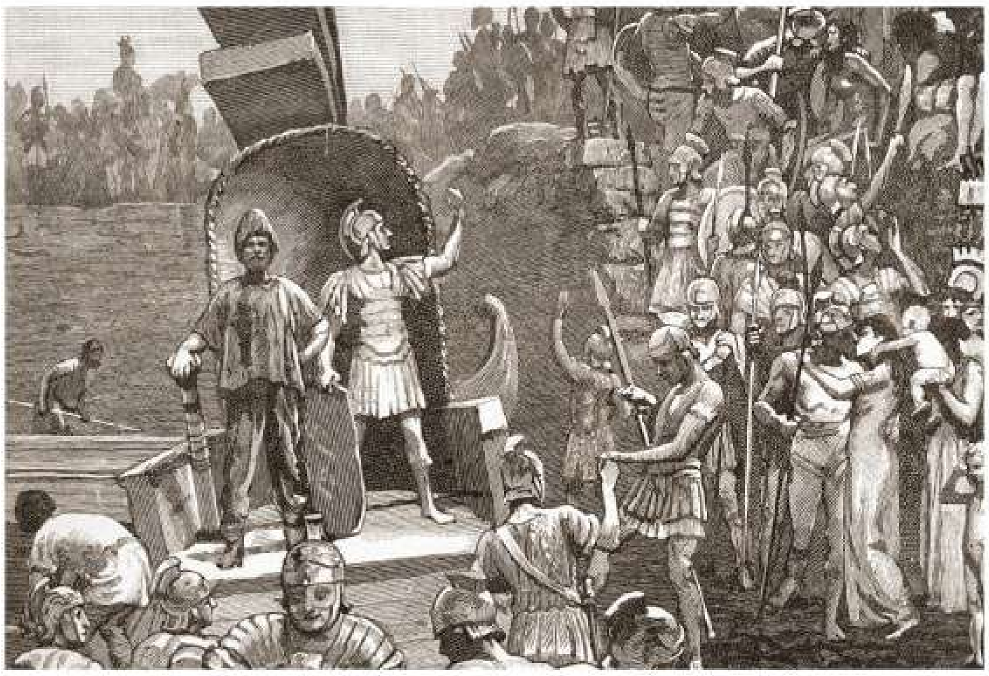
© Alamy

SEVERVS PIVS AVG P M TR P X

A Roman coin depicting the Emperor Septimius Severus

END OF ROMAN RULE

Emperor Honorius, in the *Rescript of Honorius*, tells Britain to fend for itself, marking the commonly accepted end of Roman rule in the region. Recent archaeological finds, however, show a Roman presence into the 450s CE.



Roman soldiers leaving Briton in the 4th century. From Cassell's History of England, published c.1901

© Getty

THE NEW FRONTIER

The islands and people off the north coast of Gaul were well-known in Rome, and over the centuries several campaigns were launched to claim them

Roman contact with Britain prior to conquest was a combination of trade and diplomacy. Knowledge of the British Isles extended back into the third millennium BCE thanks to the presence in the southwest of both tin and copper, essential for the making of bronze. Cornwall was one of the very few accessible sources of tin in Europe, so Cornish tin was essential for bronze production throughout western Europe.

In addition to these tin and copper resources found on the islands, Britain was also renowned as a source of the culinary delicacy oysters. Grain was also a major export, and Britain was seen as a lucrative source of trade (and therefore taxes) and manpower. The islands were ripe for conquest by any Roman leader daring enough to try, and Britain became a significant supplier of these resources for more than 300 years after the Romans conquered it. The islands' minerals, agriculture and people would be the deciding factor in several important moments in Roman history, and its bounty more than justified its addition to the Roman Empire.

Julius Caesar first ventured (briefly) into Britain during his campaigns in Gaul in 55 and 54 BCE. The British Atrebates tribe was aiding its allies and kinsmen in Gaul, and Caesar came over to put a stop to this. One notable aspect of his short expedition is that he crossed the 'ocean' to get to Britain, proving that the sea was no barrier to Roman expansion. By the time he left, he'd established stronger diplomatic ties with several tribes, especially the Trinovantes (based in what's now Essex).

After Caesar's death in 44 BCE, there were attempts to make more permanent diplomatic connections with the various tribes of Britain, and several tribes in the south were even using the Latin alphabet on their coins. Even coinage itself may have come about through exposure to continental trade since tribes away from the south coast, such as the Brigantes (the largest tribal area in the north, centred on the Pennines), did not have coinage at all.

Caesar's heir Augustus probably had intentions of returning to Britain because it was on Caesar's list of 'things to do' at the time of his death, but he got distracted by other events, first in Spain and then in Germania. Nonetheless, in the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* (*The Deeds of the Divine Augustus*) he speaks of British kings paying him homage, so it was considered that there were client kingdoms of Rome in Britain.

Germania was also a focus of conquest in the last years BCE and continuing into the first years CE – they were "the fields of glory on the eastern bank of the Rhine". Yet the disastrous loss of three legions in Germania under Varus in 9 CE put a stop to all plans for conquest for the last few years of Augustus' reign. When Augustus died in 14 CE, the new emperor Tiberius restarted Roman campaigns in Germania, which continued with little success until 16 CE. From that point on until the end of his reign in 37 CE, Tiberius abandoned any idea of military conquest and adopted a diplomatic approach. Throughout this time diplomatic and trade contacts with Britain continued.

Under Tiberius' heir Caligula (r.37-41 CE), an invasion of Britain was planned. Discoveries as recently as late 2021 have found archaeological evidence of the expanded forts preparing for this invasion, at Velsen in The Netherlands. These discoveries support the literary sources, although those sources are dismissive of Caligula's actual plans (they tell of how he made his army collect seashells around Boulogne).

Caligula's assassination in 41 CE saw Emperor Claudius rise to power. One of the great generals under Augustus had been Claudius' father, Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus, the commander who began the conquest of Germania under Augustus and was given the last name for his conquests in Germania. (Following that model, Claudius would take the title Britannicus.)

Claudius looked to his father for an inspirational role model for the conquest of Britain, and he wanted to be seen as a worthy son. He also had the extensive infrastructure put in place by Caligula's commanders Aulus Plautius and Saturninus. This is why Claudius, an unlikely conqueror who had a limp, a stutter and had never had a military career, could embark on the conquest. The groundwork and the planning had been done, the deployments were in place, and Britain was seen as low-hanging fruit. Claudius needed a conquest, hence it was organised in a very short time in comparison to plans for Germania, for instance.

Once Claudius' very minimal involvement was complete – he was in Britain for perhaps two weeks – he then took a long, winding victory tour back to Italy. The road he took was the one built by his father (the via Claudia) so he really was emphatically saying that he was a worthy son. It was also a way of legitimising Claudius' rule – he had been put in power by the Praetorian Guard in 41 CE and the success in Britain was a sure sign his rule was legitimate.

© Alamy

© Getty

© Alamy

“IN ADDITION TO THE TIN AND COPPER RESOURCES FOUND ON THE ISLANDS, BRITAIN WAS ALSO RENOWNED AS A SOURCE OF THE CULINARY DELICACY OYSTERS”

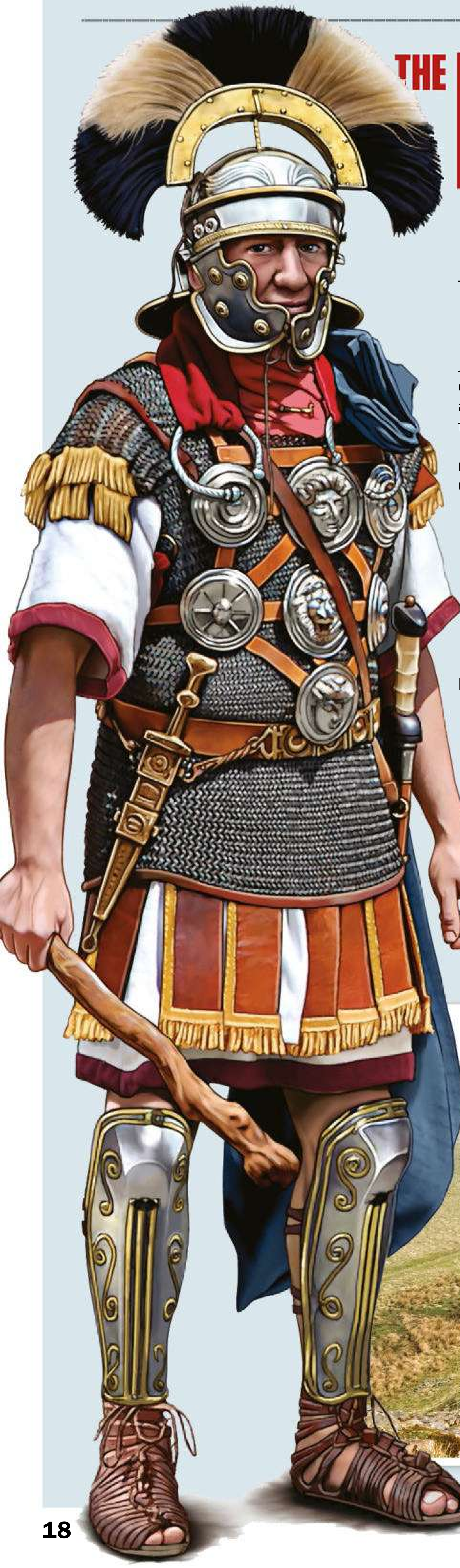
© Getty

CONSTANTINE BY THIS SIGN CONQUER
© Getty

Above: *During the Gallic Wars, Julius Caesar claimed British tribes supported the Gauls and used that as a pretext for invasion*

Left: *A statue of Emperor Constantine in York, England*

Far left: *Several British tribes in the south were using coins featuring the Latin alphabet decades before Roman occupation*



THE ROMAN ARMY

The legions in Britain helped Romanise the remote province and guarded its northern border

Like elsewhere in the territories controlled by the Roman Empire, the soldiers in Britannia were sorted into legions and subordinate auxiliary units. The former were composed of roughly 5,500 Roman citizens, almost all of whom were infantry and had joined for a fixed 25-year term of service.

The legionaries were then supplemented by numerous units of auxiliaries, which were made up of non-citizens drawn from the many non-Roman peoples around the empire. However, at the end of their terms of service the lower-paid auxiliaries were entitled to Roman citizenship. By the middle of the 2nd century CE, there were around 40,000 auxiliaries in Britain alone, garrisoned all over the province, and auxiliary horsemen comprised a large proportion of the cavalry.

Three legions provided the bulk of the Roman legionary presence in Britain during the 1st and 2nd centuries CE: II Augusta, VI Victrix and XX Valeria Victrix. The legions had their main bases at Isca (II Augusta; Caerleon, Wales), Deva (XX Valeria Victrix; Chester, England) and Eboracum (VI Victrix; York, England), with each fortress strategically placed to enable the Romans to control the surrounding territory.

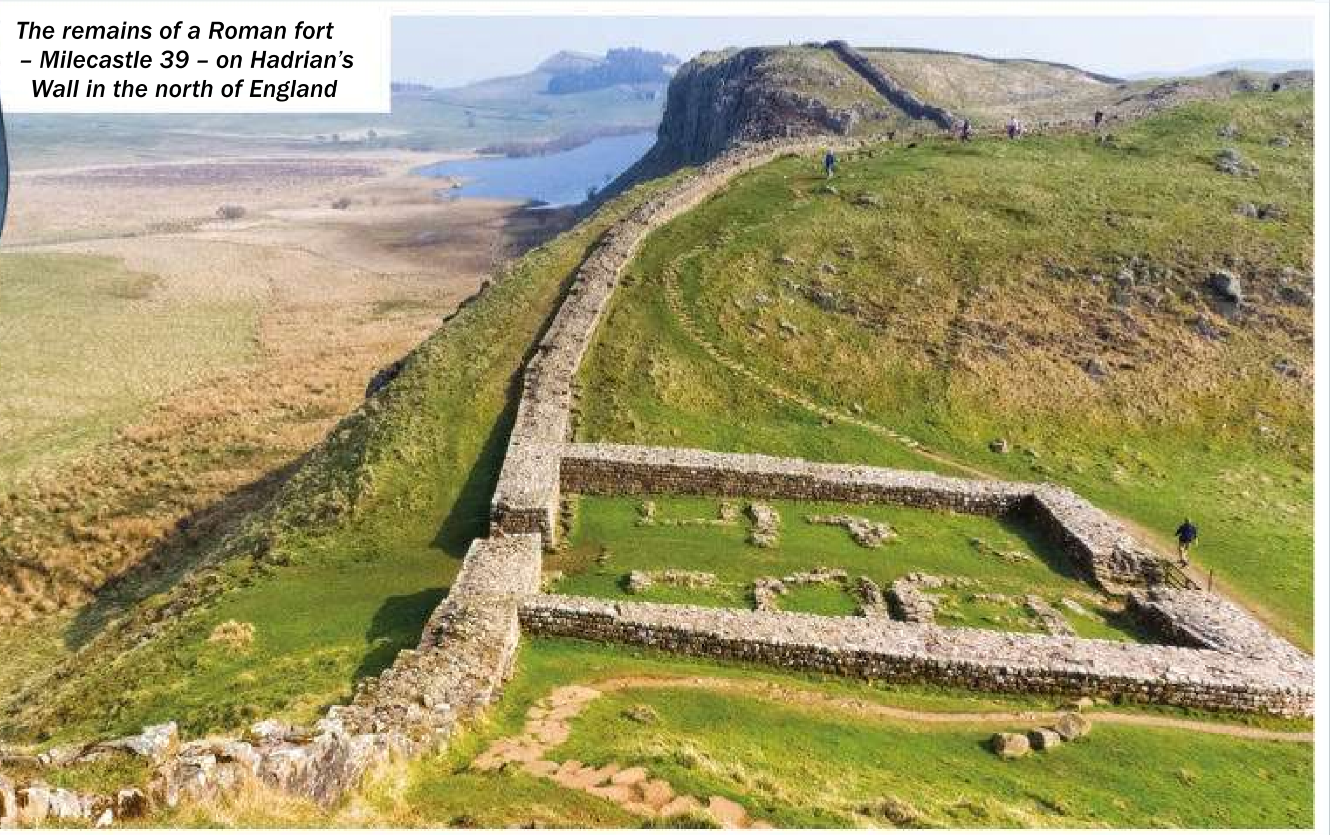
Britannia was knit together by sturdy, Roman-built roads that linked the army's many bases and made movement across the province faster and easier. The presence of the legions helped to speed the process of Romanisation in Britain, as they were often equipped with cutting-edge facilities. For example, legionary fortresses contained heated baths, which were popular among Roman soldiers and civilians alike.

Protecting the border

The north of Roman Britannia was initially guarded by a handful of forts, but during the reign of Emperor Hadrian the need for a continuous defensive barrier was judged necessary to prevent raids by the Britons living beyond Roman control. Work was begun on a stone wall in 122 CE, and it was finally completed six years later. Named after the emperor, Hadrian's Wall stretched for some 118km from east to west, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Solway.

Forts for the garrisons were located slightly south of the wall, along the Stanegate road that ran from Carlisle to Corbridge, and one such Stanegate fort town was Vindolanda. Numerous auxiliary units were housed either in them or on the wall itself. The benefit of the wall, which was not especially tall, was that it allowed the Romans to regulate traffic into or out of the province and also prevented tribal raiders from the north from entering Britain to attack Roman fortifications and make off with stolen livestock.

Remarkably, the Romans abandoned Hadrian's Wall within decades of its completion. In 142 CE, another shorter and simpler defensive barrier known as the Antonine Wall was started approximately 113km further north in what is today southern Scotland. Historians do not know why this was done, but

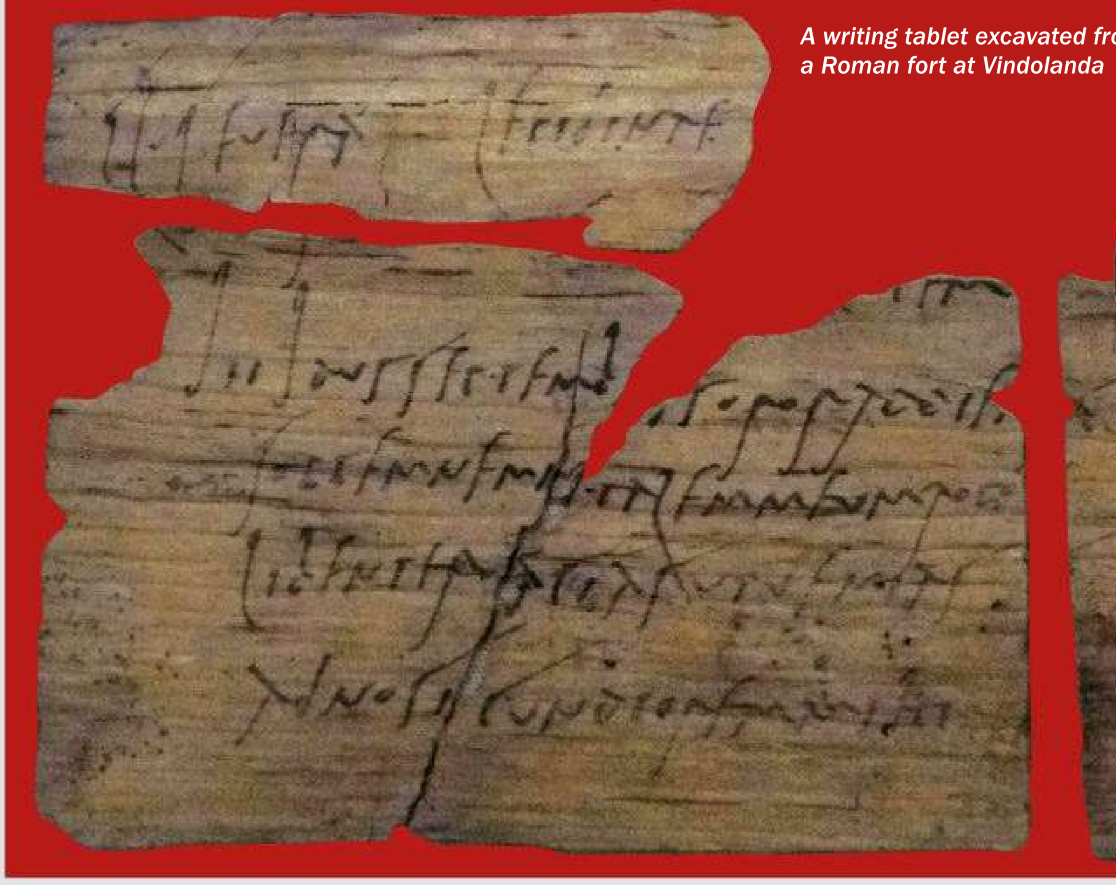


The remains of a Roman fort – Milecastle 39 – on Hadrian's Wall in the north of England

© Alamy

SOLDIERS AT VINDOLANDA

Excavations at Vindolanda, the site of a Roman fort, have uncovered large numbers of letters on wooden writing tablets. The majority were composed with ink applied to the wood with a pen. These tablets have given us extraordinary insights into Roman army life on the frontier, and were not all strictly about military matters. One tablet, dating to about 100 CE, was actually a birthday invitation from the wife of a commander of another fort to Sulpicia Lepidina. Lepidina was married to Flavius Cerialis, the commander of a Batavian auxiliary cohort (Cohors IX Batavorum) stationed at the Vindolanda fort. Another tablet contained a request made by a cavalry officer to Cerialis for more beer. The tablets themselves generally date from between 90 CE and 120 CE, when the fort served as the base of two auxiliary cohorts: the aforementioned Cohors IX Batavorum and Cohors I Tungrorum. The cache of wooden tablets, remarkably well preserved because of the low-oxygen soil in which they were buried, represents the largest collection of Latin-language letters ever found. The numerous tablets also demonstrate that many Roman soldiers were literate.



A writing tablet excavated from a Roman fort at Vindolanda

Image: Wiki / PD / Fae

“REMARKABLY, THE ROMANS ABANDONED HADRIAN’S WALL WITHIN DECADES OF ITS COMPLETION”

it is reasonable to assume that Roman security required the extension of imperial control northward over the unruly Britons.

The 60km Antonine Wall took its name from Emperor Antoninus Pius. Running from the Firth of Forth in the east to the Firth of Clyde in the west, it was much less sophisticated than Hadrian’s Wall, being primarily a turf rampart about three metres in height, studded with forts, and with a deep ditch in front of it. Construction was conducted by the men of the Roman legions stationed in Britain at the time: II Augusta, VI Victrix and XX Valeria Victrix. The legionaries left behind carved stone ‘distance slabs’ to indicate which Roman legion had built that particular section of the wall.

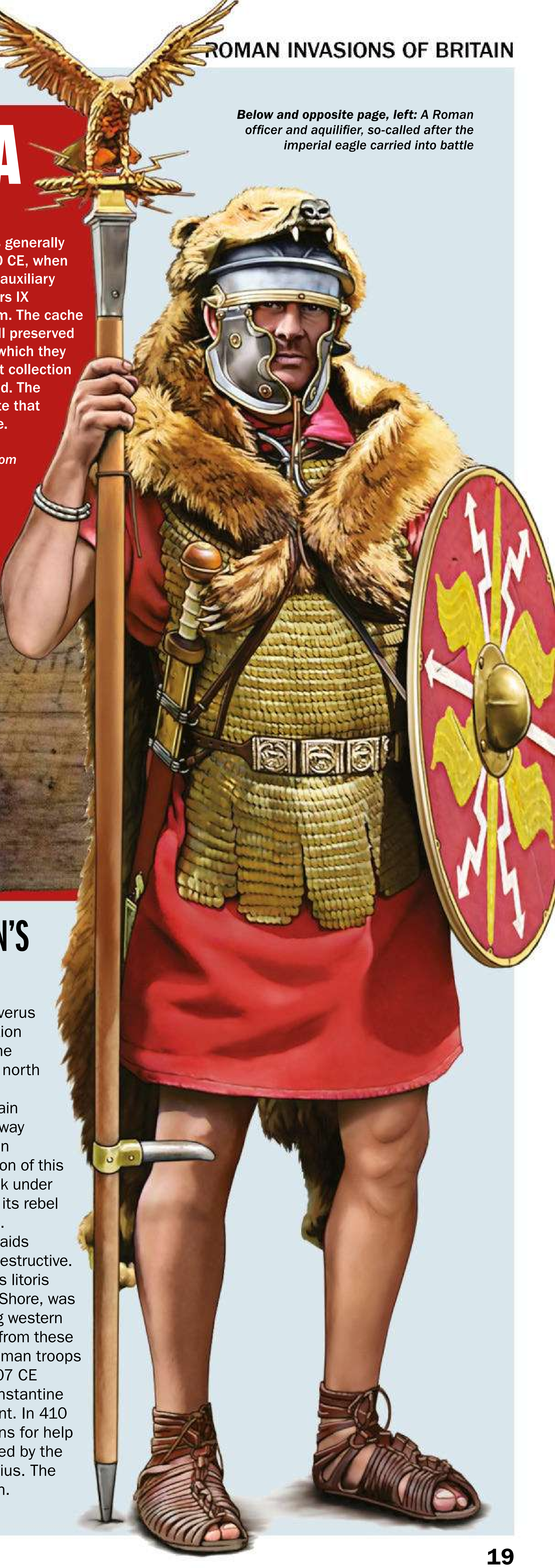
However, the Antonine Wall did not remain in use for long. It was abandoned in 162 CE, with the legions returning south to reoccupy Hadrian’s Wall.

The later empire

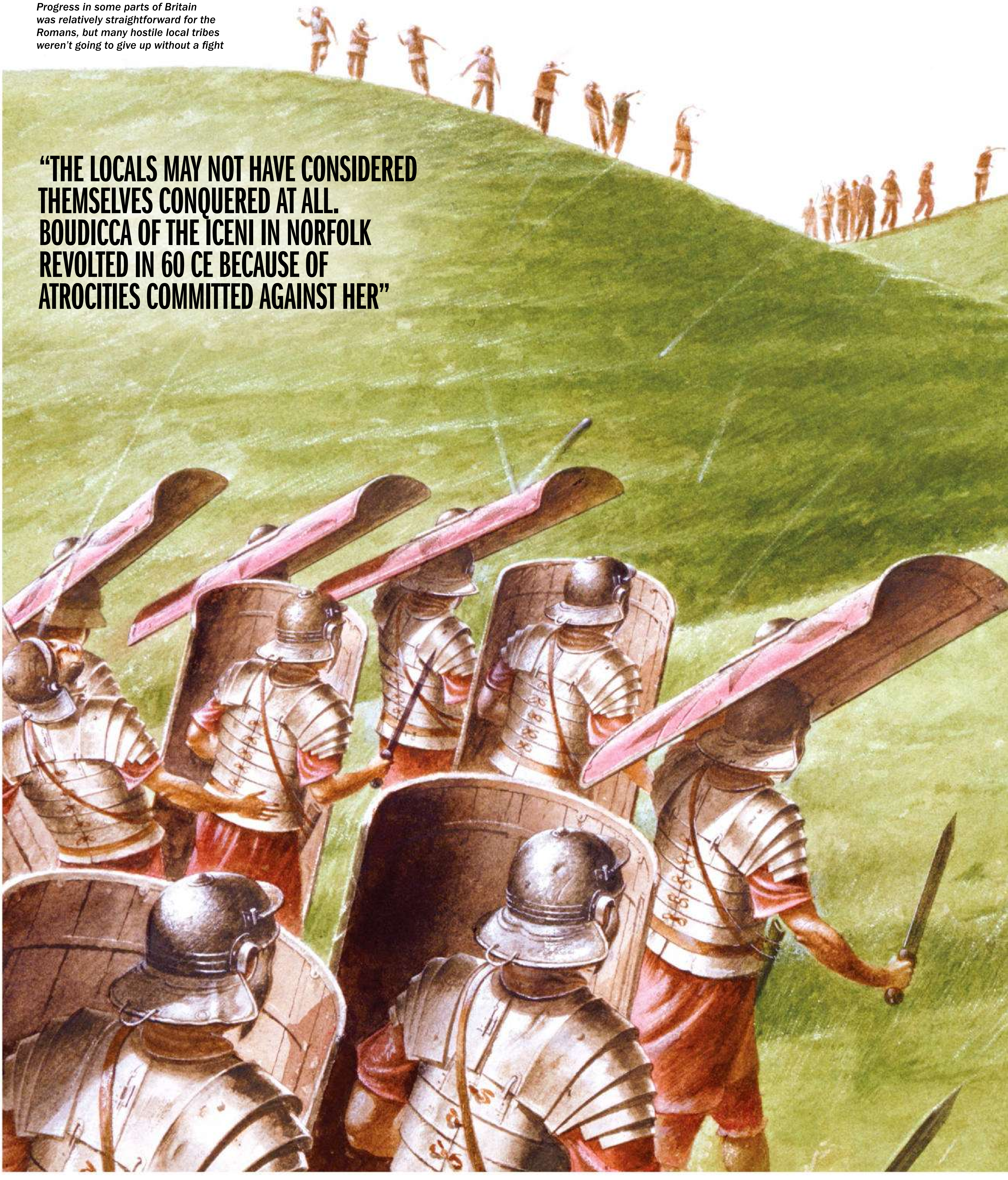
The Roman Empire found itself under increasing pressure between the 2nd and 5th centuries CE. Foreign invasions preoccupied the army, which was hard-pressed to stop them all. In 208 CE, Emperor Septimius Severus personally led a military expedition into modern Scotland against the troublesome Caledonians living north of the frontier.

In the late 3rd century CE Britain would briefly be part of a breakaway empire including Gaul and Roman Germany. Britain, the rump portion of this empire, was forcibly brought back under imperial control in 296 CE when its rebel ruler Allectus was killed in battle.

In the 4th century CE, Saxon raids grew increasingly frequent and destructive. A Roman commander, the comes litoris Saxonici, or Count of the Saxon Shore, was given responsibility for defending western Britain and the English Channel from these seaborne attackers. The last Roman troops were removed from Britain in 407 CE when a Roman commander, Constantine III, left with them to the continent. In 410 CE, a plea from the native Britons for help against Saxon raiders was denied by the Western Roman Emperor Honorius. The Roman army was never to return.



***Below and opposite page, left:** A Roman officer and aquilifier, so-called after the imperial eagle carried into battle*



Progress in some parts of Britain was relatively straightforward for the Romans, but many hostile local tribes weren't going to give up without a fight

"THE LOCALS MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED THEMSELVES CONQUERED AT ALL. BOUDICCA OF THE ICENI IN NORFOLK REVOLTED IN 60 CE BECAUSE OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED AGAINST HER"

RESISTANCE & REBELLION

Many tribes stood against the legions, putting up a fierce fight that made the Roman conquest of Britain far from a foregone conclusion

Four legions were considered enough to conquer Britain, and this was probably the number decided under Caligula (r.37-41 CE). These were the legions 2nd Augusta, 9th Hispana, 14th Gemina and the 20th Valeria Victrix, drawn from other parts of the empire, including the Rhine frontier. Their availability suggests the long-standing planning involved in the invasion, because moving such units at short notice would've left a gap in the defence of a frontier. Supporting these legions was probably an equal number of auxiliary and supporting troops.

Many of our sources are frustratingly incomplete or they don't give us all the information we would like. Suetonius names only one commander, Plautius, whereas Eutropius (writing 300 years later) mentions two: Plautius and Saturninus. We don't know if there were two battle groups or anything about the invasion plan. It is possible there were two invasion axis points: one at Rutupiae, at the Isle of Thanet, and the other near Chichester in West Sussex. In later invasions of Britain (when it broke away from the empire), two invasion points were utilised.

The fort at Rutupiae (modern-day Richborough) seems to have been one landing point, and it still has the remains of a triumphal arch built to commemorate Claudius' conquest. The invasion may also have used supplies and logistics put in place with client kings such as Togodumnus, king of the Catuvellauni tribe based at St Albans.

Evidence at Fishbourne Roman Palace suggests it may have been a centre of Roman trade before the conquest. Such tribal internal politics also played their part – the Catuvellauni were rivals of the most dominant tribe at the time of Caesar's expedition, the Trinovantes. In the century since, the Catuvellauni had become more powerful through their alliance with Rome. A war with the Atrebates (based in Hampshire) had meant their king, Verica, took refuge within the Roman Empire and this also gave a pretext for invasion.

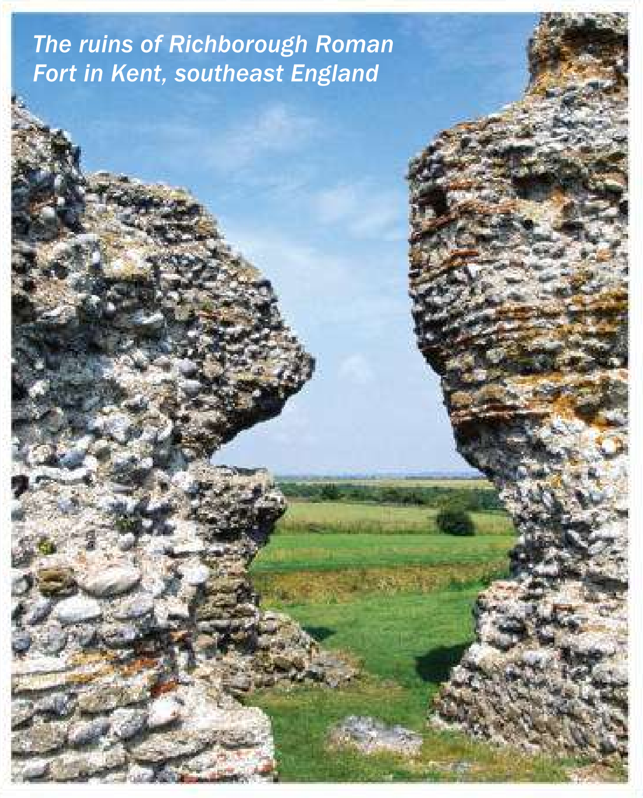
The invasion bested the locals at the Medway and advanced on the Thames, where the Romans defeated the coalition of tribes. Plautius then waited for Emperor Claudius himself to arrive so that he could 'lead' the army in the final conquest of Camulodunum (Colchester), the capital of the Trinovantes. It was then made a colonia – a centre of Roman culture in the conquered territory – complete with an imposed grid-like Roman street plan, and a displaced native population largely replaced by Roman veterans.

Each legion or battle group was then given a specific area – the 2nd Augusta for instance travelled southwest and took several oppida, hill forts such as Hod Hill and Maiden Castle. They built the Roman road network as they went. These four legions were working separately but were coordinating their efforts to some degree.

The Cantiaci tribe, who occupied a region in south-east England, seem to have resisted the Romans at first but fell quickly. The Trinovantes and the Catuvellauni also resisted the progress of the invasion, often defending river crossings. However, there is also evidence of co-operation and diplomatic relations between these tribes and the Romans prior to invasion.

According to the historian Cassius Dio, Togodumnus led the resistance of the Catuvellauni until he fell after the battle at the Thames. The fight against the Romans was then led by his brother, Caratacus, who continued to lead resistance for a decade. Within tribes there also seem to have been divided opinions – Caratacus decided to resist the Romans rather than kowtow to them as his brother Togodumnus initially seems to have done. Cartimandua and her husband Venutius also show this aspect of divided local loyalties. Other tribes further inland – the Durotriges and the Decangli and Silures in Wales – had had less contact with Rome and saw no need to build an alliance. In 47 CE, the governor Publius Ostorius Scapula had to abandon his conquest of the Decangli in northern Wales due to extreme resistance.

Our sources tell us of the 'Roman conquest', meaning we see the invasion through Roman eyes. However, the British peoples resisted the conquest of their native land by an invading foreign power. This can be seen in Caratacus' continuing resistance using guerrilla warfare into the early 50s CE. It was also far from an inevitable conquest, but local politics continued to play a part.


The ruins of Richborough Roman Fort in Kent, southeast England

When, after a decade of resistance, Caratacus took refuge with Queen Cartimandua of the Brigantes in 51 CE, she handed him over to the Romans – she considered it was in her interests to pander to the Romans rather than resist them. She and her husband Venutius then divorced and he encouraged resistance rather than compliance to Rome's wishes. The Romans first invaded Brigantian territory between 52-57 CE but it would take until the 70s CE to be completely pacified. In several cases tribes who had been defeated needed to be conquered again, such as the Silures who were 'defeated' in the late 40s CE but needed further campaigns in the 70s CE under the governorship of Sextus Julius Frontinus.

The initial invasion of Britain was relatively rapid in the Medway, Thames, Camulodunum and beyond. As the conquest advanced out from the southeast, it met with more rapid success in some regions but was slow in other areas. The Roman advance then seemed to get completely bogged down, especially in the conquest of Wales.

What is more, the locals may not have considered themselves conquered at all. Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni in Norfolk, revolted in 60 CE because of atrocities committed against her. The rebellion by the Iceni was initially successful because the Roman army was away conquering Anglesey, in what is now northern Wales. This meant they were caught completely by surprise when a rebellion broke out to their rear. They had believed this region had been conquered. Boudicca sacked Camulodunum, Londinium and Verulamium before being defeated by the governor, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, probably in Hertfordshire. The conquest of Britain was still very much a work in progress.

In the Roman sources, Boudicca is depicted as a deceitful female leader connected with magic. The brutal Roman treatment of Boudicca's family and tribe ignited a hotbed of resentment at the ongoing conquest. The massive groundswell of resistance that she led almost totally derailed the Roman conquest of Britain before she was finally defeated. The Romans then began, almost from scratch, to ensure that those areas of Britain that had already been conquered remained suppressed.

The fact that Boudicca's rebellion had caught the Romans by surprise and had nearly succeeded demonstrates that the concept of Romanisation – romanitas – did not succeed in supplanting the Britons' Iron Age sense of identity for many years, if ever.

Images © Getty

DIVIDING BRITAIN

In an attempt to pacify Britannia after a period of civil war, the territory was divided into separate provinces

It's fair to say that life for Septimius Severus was far from easy. After all, as one of the five claimants for the title of Roman emperor in 193 CE following the assassination of Commodus, he'd been a key component of a bloody civil war. While he did emerge victorious, trouble was never too far away.

Rivals Pertinax and Didius Julianus had been dispatched to an early grave, but Severus had agreed to share a consulship with his then-ally, Clodius Albinus, the governor of Britannia. Severus then went on to defeat Pescennius Niger, the governor of Syria, and a power battle between Albinus and Severus ensued.

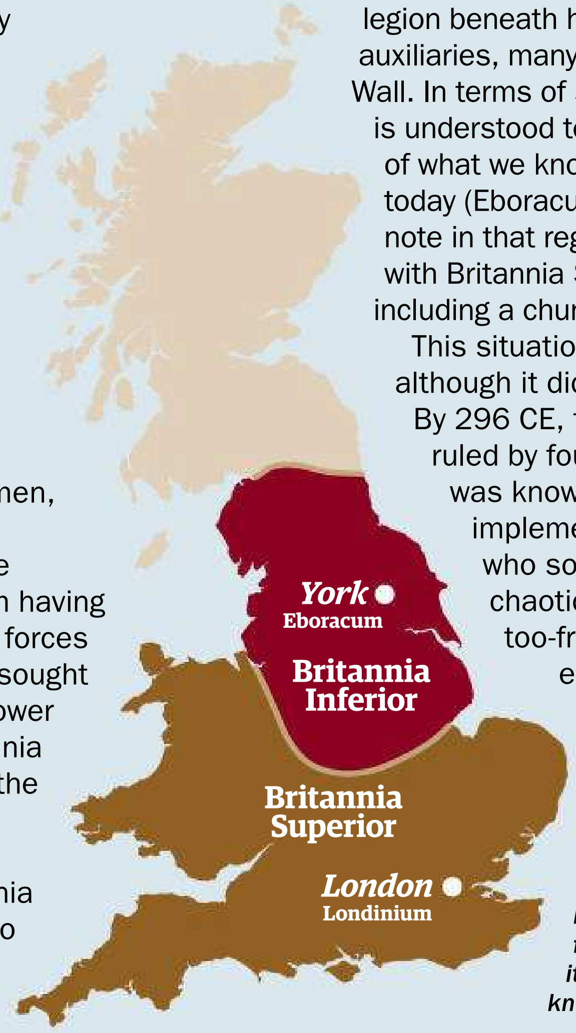
By 196 CE, Severus had declared his eldest son, Caracalla, as caesar and heir, which understandably upset Albinus. Proclaimed emperor by his troops, Albinus promptly led three legions from Britannia to Gaul with the aim of marching on Rome, but Severus foresaw his ambition and marched his troops through Germany to meet him. The two armies clashed in a huge battle involving some 300,000 men, during which Albinus died.

In order to prevent future governors of Britannia from having three legions and auxiliary forces at their disposal, Severus sought to lessen the province's power by splitting it in two. Britannia Superior was to comprise the south and have Londinium (modern London) as its capital. Meanwhile, Britannia Inferior was to be formed to the north, with Eboracum (York) as its capital.

These names were typical of the structure of the Roman Empire. Provinces closer to Rome were generally given the name Superior while those further away were called Inferior. Despite the connotation of the names, Severus ended up moving to Eboracum in 208 CE in order to lead campaigns against the Caledonians, who were frequently attacking from the north. He died on 2 February 211 CE, the year the splitting of Britannia was finally set in stone, most likely under the order of Caracalla.

Britannia Superior was placed in the hands of a man of consular rank who had a couple of legions and a few auxiliaries to work with. Britannia Inferior was ruled by a man of praetorian rank who had just one legion beneath him at Eboracum and more auxiliaries, many of whom guarded Hadrian's Wall. In terms of structure, Britannia Inferior is understood to have encompassed much of what we know as northern England today (Eboracum was the only town of real note in that region at the time) and Wales, with Britannia Superior absorbing the rest, including a chunk of East Anglia.

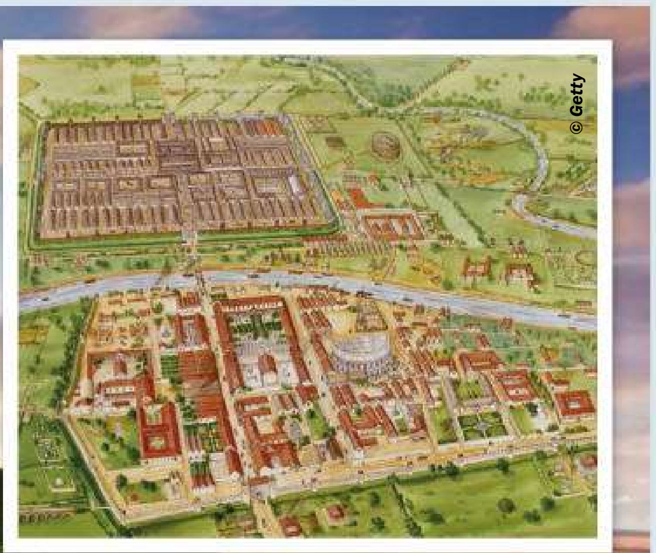
This situation lasted for a few decades, although it did not survive the 3rd century. By 296 CE, the Roman Empire was being ruled by four emperors under what was known as a tetrarchy. This was implemented by Emperor Diocletian, who sought to put an end to the chaotic instability caused by all-too-frequent assassinations of emperors: having multiple leaders, he figured, ensured the empire couldn't be hugely affected by a single death.



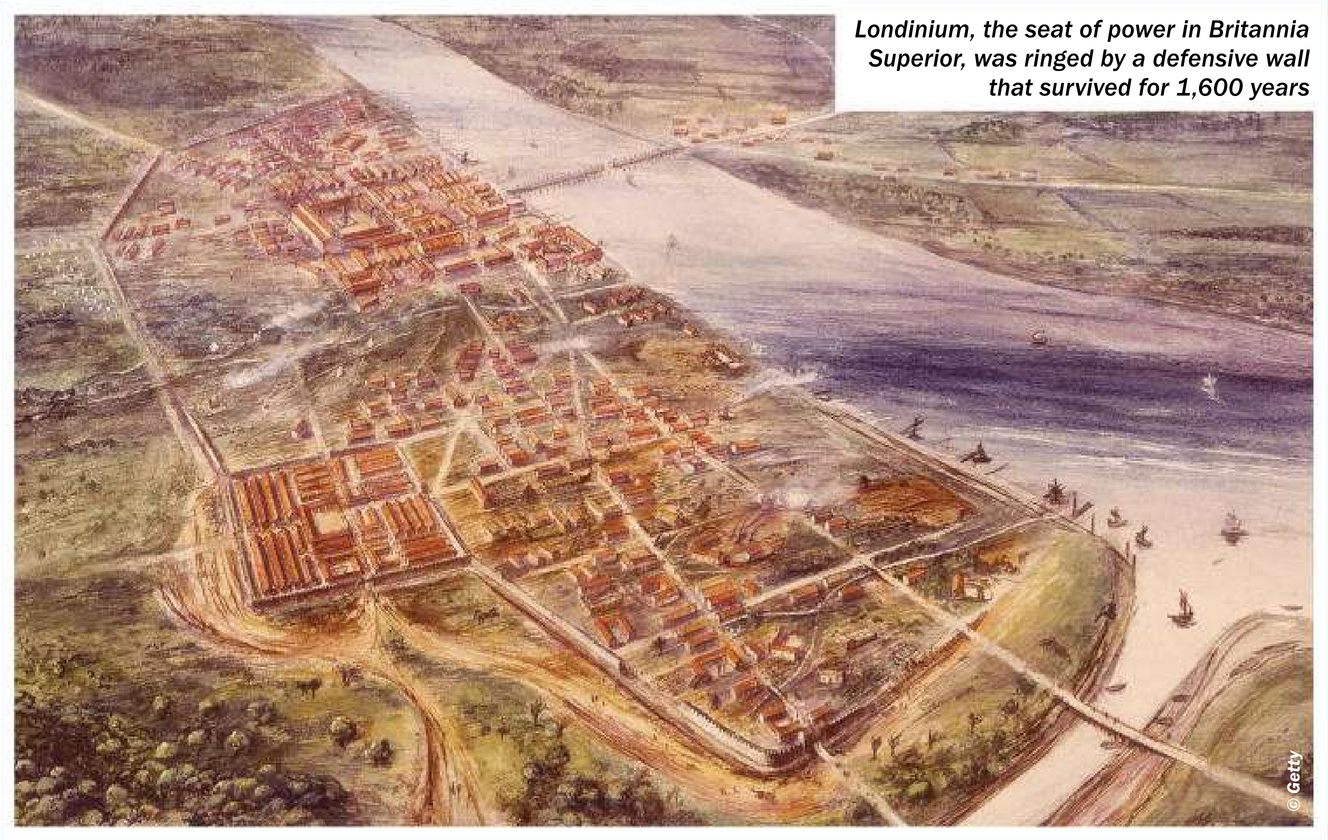
Britannia Inferior was furthest from Rome, hence the name, and it dominated much of what is today known as northern England

Construction of Hadrian's Wall began in 122 CE to protect the northern border of Britannia

© Alamy


© Getty

Above: *Eboracum, or modern-day York, as it was in the 3rd century, at a time when it was the key settlement for Britannia Inferior*


Londinium, the seat of power in Britannia Superior, was ringed by a defensive wall that survived for 1,600 years

© Getty

"IN 400 CE, ROMAN TROOPS LEFT BRITANNIA TO DEFEND ITALY, AND BRITANNIA SOUGHT SELF-MANAGEMENT"

What it couldn't protect against, however, was rebellion. When one emperor, Maximian, tasked the naval commander Carausius with monitoring the channel of water between Britannia and Gaul in 286 CE, the military man declared himself emperor of Britain and northern Gaul. Maximian sent his junior emperor Constantius Chlorus to reclaim Britannia. In the end, Carausius was assassinated by his treasurer, Allectus, in 293 CE.

Constantius eventually defeated Allectus, killing him in a battle close to Silchester. Britannia was then termed a diocese and eventually carved up into four provinces. Britannia Superior was split into Maxima Caesariensis and Britannia Prima, while Britannia Inferior was separated into Flavia Caesariensis and Britannia Secunda.

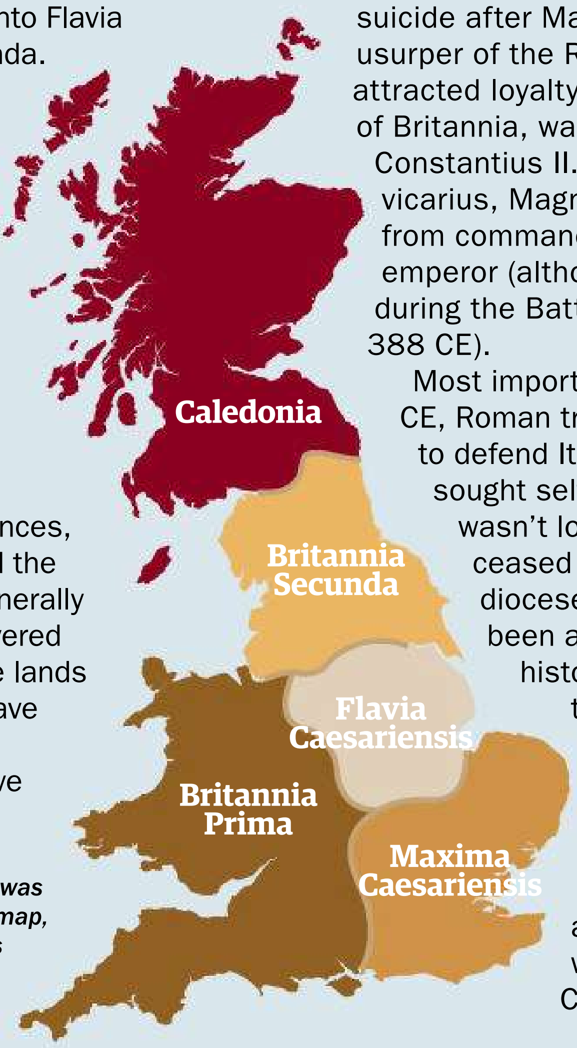
Quite how they got their names is not entirely certain. Maxima Caesariensis, which was ruled from Londinium, may have been named after either the eastern junior emperor Galerius Maximian or the western senior emperor Valerius Maximian (or maybe even both). Flavia Caesariensis is most likely after Flavius Constantius Caesar.

What is also uncertain are the exact areas each of the four provinces, with scholars having long debated the locations and boundaries. It is generally accepted that Britannia Prima covered Wales and Cornwall as well as the lands in between, and it is thought to have been ruled from Dobunni (modern Cirencester), although it could have been Deva (modern Chester).

Britannia Secunda is thought to have been ruled from Eburacum, taking in what is now northern England and Yorkshire, while Flavia Caesariensis was ruled from Lindum (Lincoln), occupying the middle of what is today England in a vast area from the south of the Pennines. Whatever the boundaries were, however, the effect was a divided Britannia under the direction of a governor (called a vicarius) at a time when the number of Roman provinces across the empire had increased. It wouldn't last.

The 4th century saw Constantine hailed as emperor by the diocese's army as well as the introduction of Christianity. In 353 CE the vicarius Flavius Martinus committed suicide after Magnentius, a usurper of the Roman Empire who attracted loyalty within the provinces of Britannia, was defeated by Constantius II. In 383 CE another vicarius, Magnus Maximus, rose from commander of Britannia to emperor (although he was killed during the Battle of the Save in 388 CE).

Most importantly, though, in 400 CE, Roman troops left Britannia to defend Italy, and Britannia sought self-management. It wasn't long before Britannia ceased to be a Roman diocese, although it has been argued (primarily by historian Roger White) that the province of Britannia Prima became the last remaining part of the Roman Empire, ending its association only when Edward I took Caernarfon in 1278.

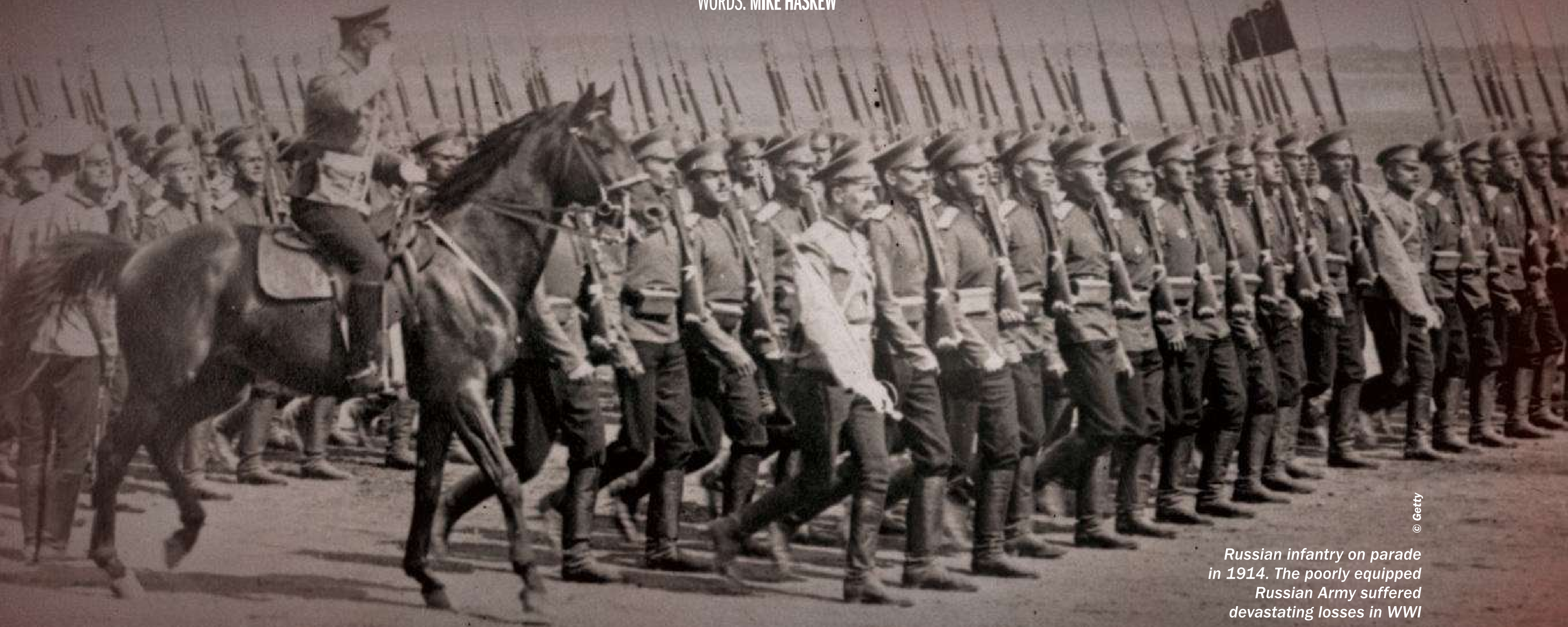


Historians generally agree that Britannia was eventually divided along the lines of this map, showing four distinct provinces as well as Caledonia, which was beyond the Roman frontier to the north

THE TSAR'S WAR WWI'S EASTERN FRONT

Tsarist Russia was unprepared when World War I began, and the disastrous experience hastened the end of the Romanov Dynasty and the rise of communist rule

WORDS: **MIKE HASKEW**



© Getty

Russian infantry on parade in 1914. The poorly equipped Russian Army suffered devastating losses in WWI

Russia entered World War I for several reasons. The torchbearer of pan-Slavism in the early 20th century, Tsar Nicholas II, last emperor of the Romanov Dynasty, believed his dominion was morally obligated to assist Serbia. Russia was bound by treaty obligations with France and Great Britain, and the Russian government entertained its own expansionist ambitions in Central Asia.

The Romanovs ruled Russia for 300 years and during that period a distinct class system emerged. The nobility lived in opulence along with wealthy landowners and industrialists, while the working and agrarian classes led a significantly more humble existence, earning paltry wages and surviving on subsistence farming. Other European countries had seen the introduction of reforms, particularly France with its revolution of the late 18th century, and the American Revolution during the same period saw the 13 former British colonies form an independent nation. During this time, however, Russian society remained rigid.

Unrest, reform and foreign relations

Nearly a decade prior to Russia's entry into World War I, in 1905 Nicholas II had agreed to political and social reforms. Sometimes referred to as the First Russian Revolution, the turbulent events of 1905 were marked by the Bloody Sunday massacre in which Russian soldiers fired on their own people, widespread strikes, rioting in major cities, and general upheaval and disorder. In order to stave off disaster, Nicholas II made concessions such as the establishment of the State Duma (a lower house of representatives), tolerance for multiple political parties and the introduction of a new constitution in 1906.

Despite these tumultuous events at home, the Russian leader was compelled to involve his empire in the affairs of the wider European community of nations. A wave of nationalistic expansionism had fostered distrust among the major countries, and wars and rumours of impending conflict had become commonplace. Following its victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, a united Germany had emerged as a significant military, political and economic force on the continent, and France was seeking to contain the territorial ambitions of its new rival.

Since 1893 Russia had been allied with France, and in 1904 the French had sided with their former centuries-old enemy Great Britain in the Entente Cordiale. Furthermore, Britain and Russia came to a political understanding regarding spheres of influence. From there, the three nations established the Triple Entente, the basis for their military cooperation during WWI as the Allied Powers. The Entente countered the Triple Alliance of Imperial Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.

Within the context of these international agreements, each nation harboured its own agenda either for economic enrichment or territorial expansion. For Russia, the biggest prize was possession of the straits of the Bosporus and the Dardanelles, which would provide access to warm-water ports and the Mediterranean Sea. These maritime passages were controlled by the Ottoman Empire, which

Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, pictured here around 1915, led his country into a calamitous war that resulted in his downfall

© Alamy

> "THE THREE NATIONS ESTABLISHED THE TRIPLE ENTENTE, THE BASIS FOR THEIR ULTIMATE MILITARY COOPERATION DURING WORLD WAR I AS THE ALLIED POWERS"

Troops kneel before Nicholas II, who holds a holy Eikon before them

later entered World War I on the side of the Central Powers, including Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

Although the vast Russian Empire included one-sixth of the world's total landmass, stretching from the Arctic Circle to the Middle East and from Eastern Europe to the Pacific, the Tsar's primary political and diplomatic focus lay in the Balkans immediately west of the Russian frontier. The guardians of pan-Slavism, it was considered the duty of the Russians to protect other Slavic peoples: those who spoke similar languages and shared ethnicity along with the adherence to the Orthodox Church. On 28 June, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo. The Russian pledge to protect Serbia against the threat of invasion by Austria-Hungary was followed through, plunging the empire into the crucible of WWI.

Ill-prepared for war

On the eve of World War I, the population of Russia was nearly 130 million, although roughly 80 percent of these people were farmers. The nation itself was primarily agrarian, and although industrialisation had brought many workers to the cities, the nation remained significantly behind the rest of Europe in terms of railways and factories constructed, manufacturing, and workers' wages.

However, the other European nations were wary, if not awestruck, by the military potential of the Russian Empire. True enough, by 1913 Nicholas II had embarked upon a tremendous programme of military expansion, increasing the number of soldiers to nearly 6.5 million with 115 infantry divisions, 38 cavalry divisions and 7,900 artillery pieces. Added to this, the reserve of individuals considered old enough for military service was 25 million.

Nicholas II (second from left) with his children and other members of his family at Tsarskoye Selo

All images © Getty

Nevertheless, there were clear weaknesses within the Russian military machine. Some of these shortcomings had been laid bare during the humiliating defeat in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, and many of these issues remained unresolved by 1914. Russian industry was incapable of supplying such a large army with the weapons and equipment it needed to wage war.

By the time the Tsar's Army took the field in the autumn of 1914 it's believed that up to two-thirds of its number had not been issued with a rifle. These unarmed soldiers were instructed to follow closely behind their comrades who had a firearm and pick up those weapons when the soldier in front of them was killed or wounded. Although Russia's entry into the Great War was greeted with an initial flurry of patriotic fervour, the euphoria quickly faded. To make matters worse, conscripts were compelled to travel hundreds of kilometres on foot to join their units.

Further complicating matters, the old social issues of 1905 emerged again in 1914. Factory workers and miners took to the streets, and crippling strikes endangered the already-precarious manufacturing sector as Russia assumed a war footing. One harrowing incident involved 12,000 men who walked off the job at the Putilov steel complex in July. The striking workers were met with gunfire from the Tsar's troops, and one newspaper editorial bemoaned: "We live on a volcano."

Another critical element that plagued the Russian war effort was a lack of competent leadership. Virtually none of the senior commanders in the army displayed real tactical capability, and there was no overarching strategy to gain lasting victory when the army was sent into East Prussia in the early days of the conflict. This inevitably led to disaster, and Nicholas II chose to take personal command

Nicholas II and his son Alexei pictured wearing military uniform, c.1910-16

Russian soldiers man a trench on the Eastern Front during the Great War

of the army, permanently linking himself to the military failures that followed.

Willy and Nicky

As Europe stumbled into war, another dimension of the complex international relations came to bear: the family ties of the countries' royalty. Nicholas II and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany were first cousins of King George V of Great Britain; Wilhelm II and Nicholas II were third cousins; Wilhelm II and George V were grandsons of Britain's Queen Victoria; and Alexandra, the Russian empress, was German by birth.

Nicholas believed this might help the great powers of Europe avoid war. However he was unaware of, or chose to ignore, the duplicity of Wilhelm II, even though the two monarchs exchanged communications in a friendly and informal manner during the march of folly that led to armed hostilities.

While treaty obligations acted as tripwires, war came despite a late flurry of telegrams between Nicholas II and Wilhelm II as both nations teetered on the brink of mobilisation of their armed forces. Preserved for historians to contemplate, the communiqués convey the Russian Tsar's desire to avoid armed conflict.

One of these reads: *"…I appeal to you to help me. An ignoble war has been declared to a weak country. The indignation in Russia shared fully by me is enormous. I foresee that very soon I shall be overwhelmed by the pressure forced upon me and be forced to take extreme measures which will lead to war. To try and avoid such a calamity as a European war I beg you in the name of our old friendship to do what you can to stop your allies from going too far. – Nicky"*

The Kaiser's response was cold and reads in part, *"I share your wish that peace should be maintained… I cannot consider Austria's action against Serbia an ignoble war. Austria knows by experience that Serbian promises on paper are wholly unreliable… It would be quite possible for Russia to remain a spectator of the Austro-Serbian conflict without involving Europe in the most horrible war she has ever witnessed. – Willy"*

War and calamity

Imperial Russia mobilised its army on 30 July 1914, and Germany followed with a declaration of war against Russia on 1 August – both nations brought into armed conflict due to treaty obligations.

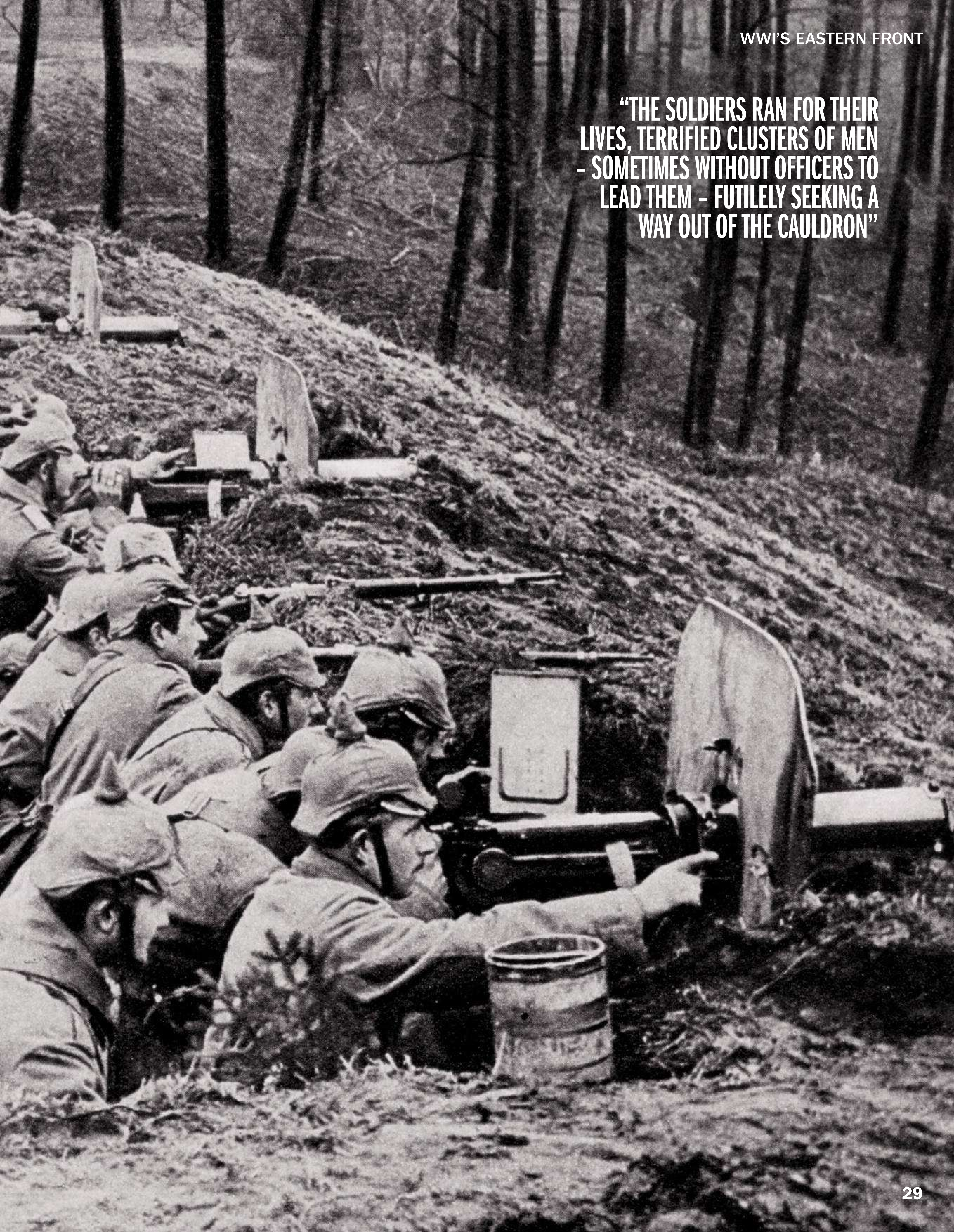
Grand Duke Nicholas, supreme commander of the Russian Army, launched an invasion of the German province of East Prussia within weeks of the outbreak of war. A two-pronged offensive crossed the frontier, with General Yakov Grigoryevich Zhilinsky in nominal

"THE OTHER NATIONS OF EUROPE WERE WARY, IF NOT AWESTRUCK, BY THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE"

Red Cross personnel treat wounded soldiers after a battle, c.1915

German troops at the Battle of Darkehmen in East Prussia, 1915

© Getty



"THE SOLDIERS RAN FOR THEIR LIVES, TERRIFIED CLUSTERS OF MEN – SOMETIMES WITHOUT OFFICERS TO LEAD THEM – FUTILELY SEEKING A WAY OUT OF THE CAULDRON"

Russian prisoners of war – in 1916 alone 330,000 were taken captive by the enemy

Nicholas II is photographed with a group of Russian Army officers, c.1916

command of the armies in the field, while General Paul von Rennenkampf commanded the Vilna army (First army) in the north and General Alexander Samsonov the Warsaw army (Second army) in the south. The two armies were to converge on the German Eighth Army and annihilate it with superior numbers, estimated at more than double the enemy strength. The Russian commanders were expected to cooperate, even though they detested eachother.

During the advance, however, the Russian spearheads became widely separated and were unable to offer mutual support. A gap between them of at least 80km developed, yet at first the advance still made progress. Rennenkampf pushed back the Germans at Gumbinnen on 20 August, while Samsonov got 13 divisions across the frontier and threatened the enemy rear. The Germans considered retreating but instead opted to launch a counterattack, and on 22 August Generals Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff took command.

Rather than pressing westward, the Russians rested and regrouped, and their radio communications transmitted in plain language with no thought that the Germans might intercept them and use the intelligence to deadly advantage.

Reckoning at Tannenberg

Ludendorff issued orders to concentrate German forces against Samsonov, even withdrawing those opposing Rennenkampf and taking a daring gamble that a decisive blow might be struck. He transferred an entire army corps to attack in the south, and his simple plan involved assaults against both the right and left flanks of the Second Army in a classic double envelopment.

The Battle of Tannenberg began in earnest on 26 August, 1914, after Samsonov initially made headway along a front of 100km with an advance the previous day. Ludendorff ordered an entire German corps to assault the Warsaw army's left flank near the town of Usdau, and concentrated artillery fire during the succeeding hours began to demoralise the weary ranks of Russian conscripts. As the Russians began to withdraw, a German pursuit was temporarily halted to repulse a counterattack at Soldau, and then the drive toward the rear of Samsonov's centre resumed.

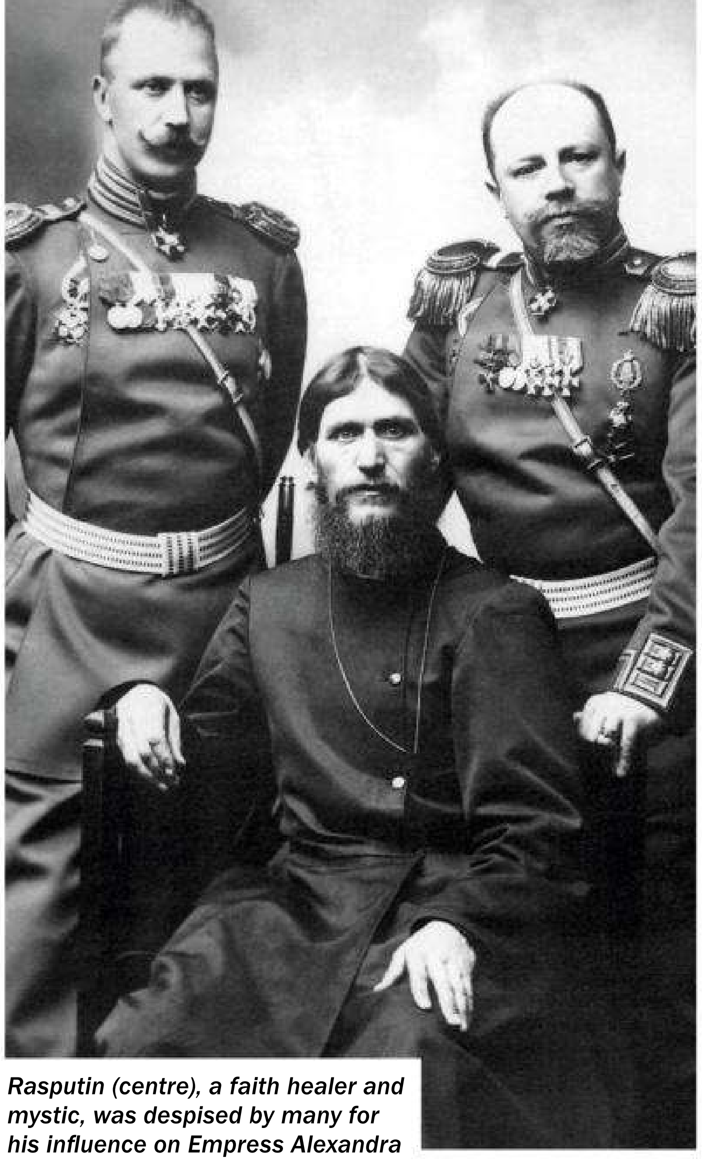
Although two Russian corps managed to slip away during the retreat, which at times verged on panic, the bulk of the Warsaw army was trapped when the Germans cut the main road eastward. The Russians were fixed by the German envelopment and unable to manoeuvre in the thick forests. Chaos ensued, and Russian unit cohesion disintegrated. The soldiers ran for their lives, terrified clusters of men – sometimes without officers to lead them – futilely seeking a way out of the cauldron.

In despair, Samsonov committed suicide on 29 August, and by that time the Germans had collected thousands of prisoners. As the fighting ebbed the following day, the Russians had lost 92,000 captured and 48,000 killed or wounded. Only 10,000 Russian soldiers managed to escape. In sharp contrast, the Germans suffered only 20,000 total casualties. The Russian Warsaw Army had ceased to exist as a fighting force.

On 31 August, Hindenburg cabled Wilhelm II: "I beg most humbly to report to Your Majesty that the ring round the larger part of the Russian Army was closed yesterday. The 13th, 15th and 18th Army Corps have been destroyed… The guns are still in the forests and are now being brought in. The booty is immense though it cannot yet be assessed in detail. The corps outside our ring, the 1st and 6th, have also suffered severely and are now retreating in hot haste through Mwala and Myszaniec."

Rennenkampf had remained passive while Samsonov was crushed at Tannenberg, and the Germans pressed their advantage further. Reinforced, they struck the Vilna army along a line extending from the Masurian Lakes to

Russian troops throw down their weapons and surrender, c.1915



Rasputin (centre), a faith healer and mystic, was despised by many for his influence on Empress Alexandra

Russian soldiers take shelter in a trench just before a battle commences, summer 1917

the vicinity of Königsberg. For two weeks, the Germans hammered Rennenkampf, forcing his retreat from East Prussia with 250,000 casualties in his wake, 170,000 of them lost in the abortive Masurian Lakes fighting.

Simultaneous with the momentous events in East Prussia, the Austro-Hungarian Army advanced into Galicia, where the Russians counterattacked, achieving a significant victory at the Battle of Lemberg (23 August to 11 September). German reinforcements, however, limited the gains Russian troops made in the Carpathian Mountains and Galicia by the spring of 1915, and the Russians were again forced to retire.

In a year of fighting, the harvest of death had been immense for Russia, with approximately 800,000 soldiers killed in battle. Meanwhile, the woefully inadequate war production and supply difficulties continued to plague the armies in the field as able-bodied men were fighting and dying rather than harvesting grain or working in factories. The Russian people, weary of war, suffered as well, and predictably they became discontented. Burgeoning anti-war sentiment began to grip the populace, and the rise of anti-war factions, particularly the Bolsheviks, became troublesome.

Enter Tsar Nicholas II

On the heels of the Russian retreat from Galicia, Nicholas II banished Grand Duke Nicholas to the Caucasus and took personal command of the Russian Army. Although the Tsar rarely interfered with the decisions of his subordinate generals, his presence at the front inevitably linked him with the success or failure of the military. Further, Empress Alexandra was left in de facto charge of the government in Petrograd. In turn, the empress was highly influenced by Grigori Rasputin, a faith healer and mystic, who had managed to somewhat restore the health of heir to the throne Tsarevich Alexei, who suffered from hereditary hemophilia.

Waves of mistrust and palace intrigue occurred while Nicholas II was with the army, and eventually Rasputin was murdered by a group of nobles who could no longer tolerate his subversive activities and interference in the halls of government. Still, the monarchy was further weakened.

"DURING THAT BLOODY YEAR OF 1916 AN ESTIMATED 330,000 SOLDIERS WERE TAKEN PRISONER, WHILE TWO MILLION WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED"

Nicholas II experienced firsthand the difficulties faced by his army and wrote to Alexandra in July 1915: "Again that cursed question of shortage of artillery and rifle ammunition – it stands in the way of an energetic advance. If we should have three days of serious fighting we might run out of ammunition altogether. Without new rifles it is impossible to fill up the gaps… If we had a rest from fighting for about a month our condition would greatly improve. It is understood, of course, that what I say is strictly for you only. Please do not say a word to anyone."

The agony of the Russian Army in World War I persisted into 1916, and during that bloody year an estimated 330,000 soldiers were taken prisoner, while two million were killed or wounded. Since the beginning of the hostilities an estimated 5.3 million Russian troops had been lost to death, wounds, disease or desertion.

In June 1916, an offensive in the southwest against the Austro-Hungarian Army had begun with great promise, but again German intervention thwarted the effort. After an advance of 80km, the Russians were forced to retreat. Nearly a million casualties were suffered in this offensive alone.

Romanov twilight

On the home front, inflation soared. Food was scarce, and the unrelenting pressure of domestic unrest and colossal military reverses inflicted irreparable damage that spiralled into the February Revolution. Exiled in Switzerland, Vladimir Lenin, leader of the Bolshevik movement, was emerging as a central figure in the looming catastrophe. By the spring of 1917 the Tsar's lieutenants were recommending not only that he relinquish control of the army, but also abdicate the throne.

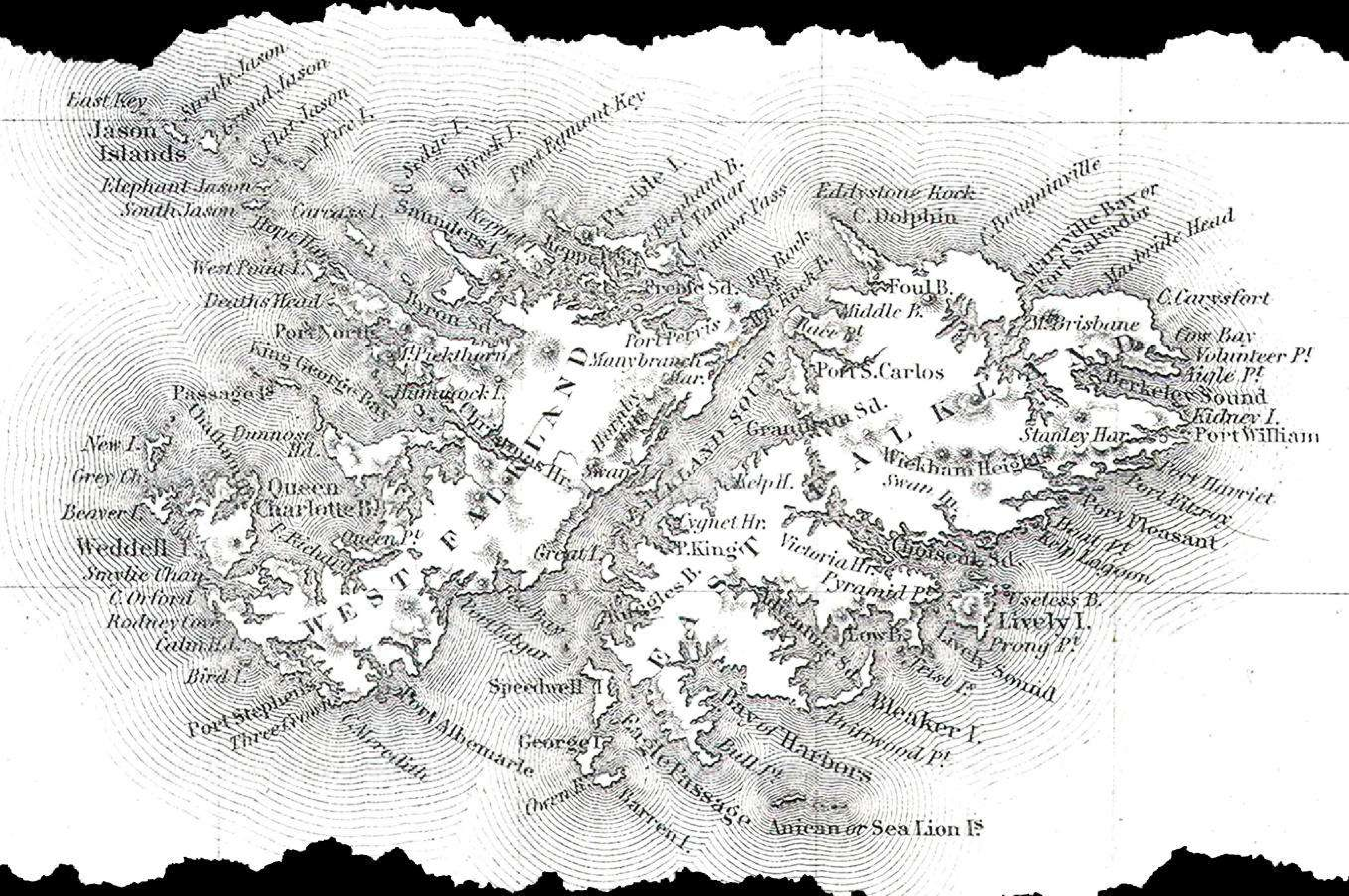
Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, the youngest brother of the Tsar, refused the throne when it was offered. Regardless, the only course of action for Nicholas II was abdication, and this occurred on 1 March 1917, ending three centuries of Romanov rule in Russia.

The formation of a tenuous provisional government followed, but the country was ripe for further revolution. Meanwhile, Russians continued to fight and die for another year – marked by the failure of the 1917 July Offensive led by General Alexei Brusilov, high desertion rates in the ranks, and friction between Brusilov's successor General Lavr Kornilov and political leader Alexander Kerensky. Command of the army devolved to Kerensky, a socialist political opponent of the Bolsheviks, who nevertheless called on them to defend Petrograd against a potential seizure of the capital by troops under Kornilov.

As Minister-President of the Russian Republic, Kerensky attempted to keep the country in the war, but never gained popular support. The Bolshevik tide was rising, and he fled to France as his ministers were arrested and the revolutionaries stormed the Winter Palace in Petrograd during the October Revolution, seizing power.

In the end, Russia's humiliating and disastrous descent into the abyss of World War I halted only with the March 1918 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Weeks later, Nicholas II and his entire immediate family were dead, victims of Bolshevik assassins.

All images © Getty



FALKLANDS

SHORT HISTORY OF A LONG DISAGREEMENT

PART 1: 1485 – 1833

For hundreds of years these South Atlantic islands have been the focus, and sideshow, of trade missions, treaties and conflicts. In this two-part series, former British Army intelligence officer and now historian Nick Van Der Bijl looks at the five centuries preceding the 1982 war

The history of the Falkland Islands, or Islas Malvinas, long predates the era of exploration, colonialism and territorial expansion that has since defined them. However, when it comes to understanding the terrible war between Argentina and Britain that ravaged this beautiful but isolated archipelago in 1982, we must go back to the dawn of the colonial era. It's a long, complex and disputed story stretching over at least four centuries.

Land sighted: the colonials arrive

Unquestionably, the Falklands' history is connected with the history of Argentina, which can be divided into four main phases: the pre-Columbian period (up to the 16th century), the colonial period (1530 – 1810), the nation-building period (1810-80) and modern Argentina (from around 1880 onwards).

In 1494 the Treaty of Tordesillas saw Spain and Portugal divide newly discovered lands outside Europe along a north-south meridian 370 leagues west of Cape Verde in the Atlantic. The arrival of the Spanish navigator Juan Diaz de Solis in the River Plate estuary in 1516 marked the beginning of Spanish colonialism in South America.

After failing to pass through the Straits of Magellan from the east, John Davis, one of Queen Elizabeth I's chief navigators, sighted the islands in August 1592. Sir Richard Hawkins, who had commanded a ship during the 1588 Armada campaign, sighted land in February 1594 and named it Hawkins' Maidenland – the sighting was probably the Falkland Islands.

Terra da bamda
do Sul do Arcito q
descobrio ho maga
lhanis

Above: *A 16th century depiction of the Strait of Magellan, the route by which explorers were able to travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean — west of the Falklands*

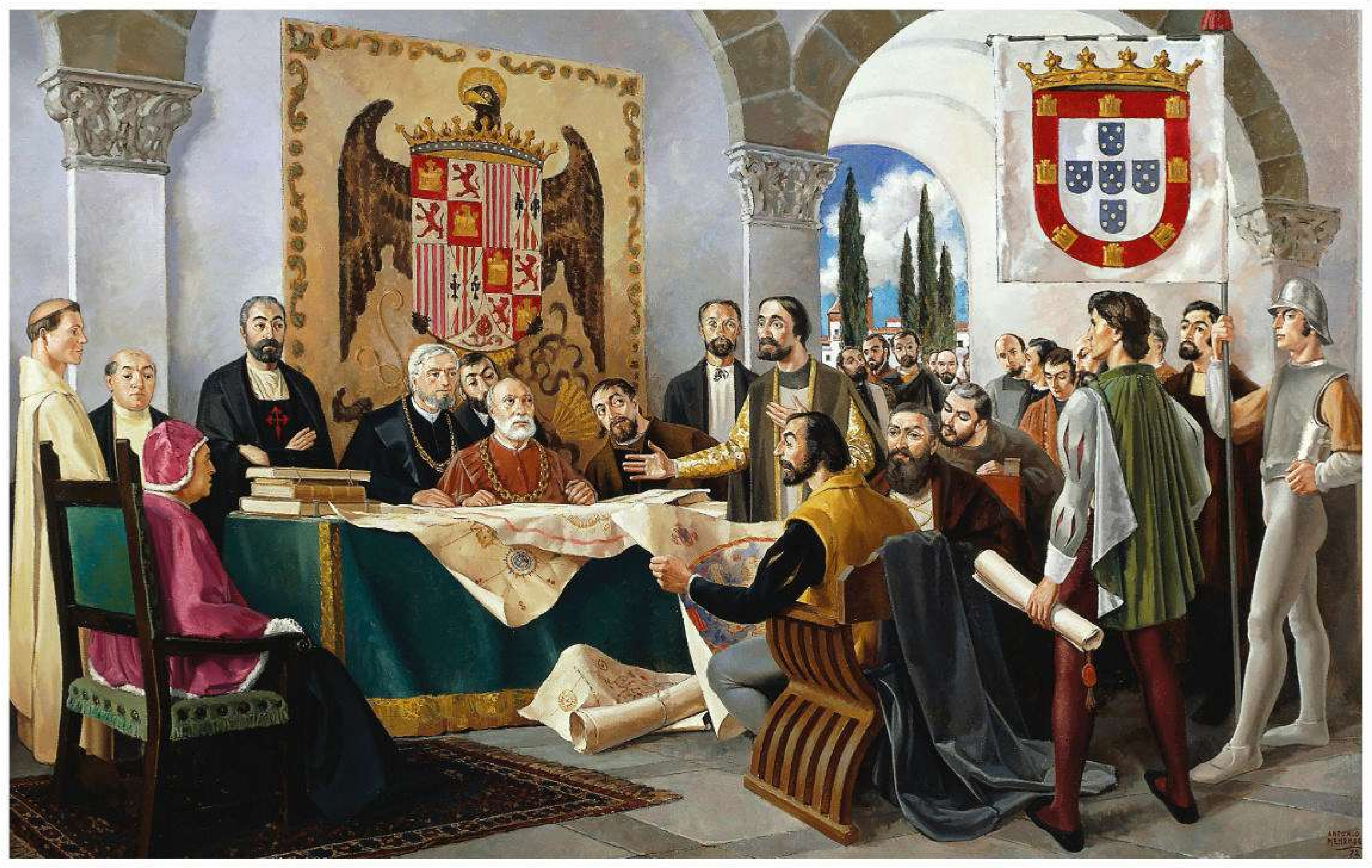
Main image, left: *The Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic have seen centuries of disagreement and violence between colonial powers vying for control*

Below: *The signing of the Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal on 7 June, 1494. The treaty saw the two countries carve up newly discovered lands*

When the Dutch sent Sebald de Weert, a Flemish naval officer, to find a trading route to the Pacific in early in 1599, he departed with five ships. The fleet was delayed by scurvy off West Africa and when it reached the Magellan Straits in April 1599 it encountered four months of unfavourable winds, clashed with native inhabitants, and the crew resorted to eating penguins. The ships reached the Pacific in September but another storm dispersed the vessels and De Weert and another ship were driven back through the Straits and separated. De Weert, in the Geloof, met another Dutch expedition but his ship was so encrusted with barnacles that progress was slow. On 24 January 1600, a landing party hunting penguins for food lost their anchor in the surf and also their boat when it reached his ship. De Weert wrote in the ship's log: "We found three small islets to windward, not marked in any maps, which we named the Sebaldine Islands. These are in lat. 50 deg. 40'S., sixty leagues from the continent, and contained abundance of penguins; but we could not catch any, having no boat."

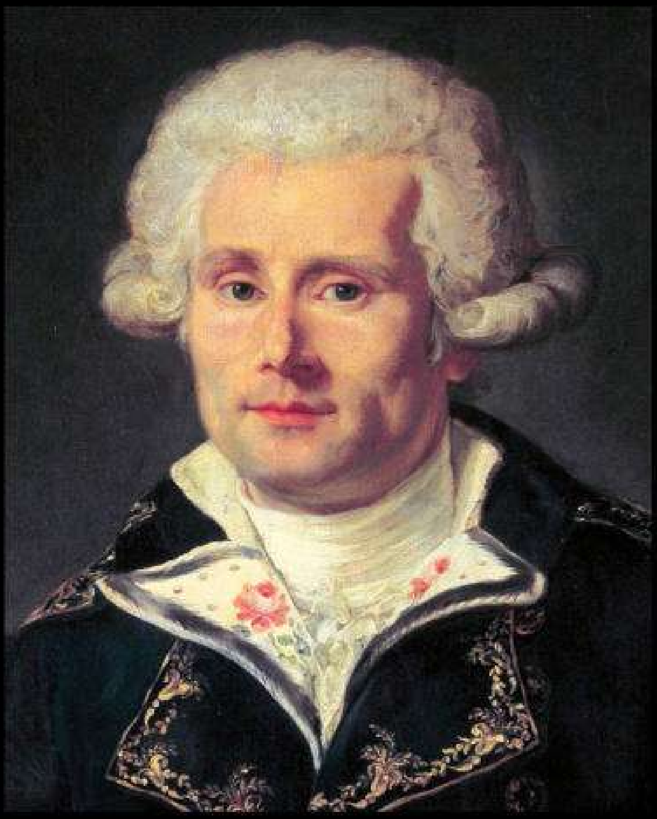
The Geloof reached Holland in mid-July, the only ship of the five to return but at the cost of two-thirds of his crew. De Weert was later murdered in Ceylon. His mapping and observations of the Magellan Straits proved invaluable for later navigators.

Captain John Strong, commanding the Welfare, was instructed to recover treasure from a Spanish ship wrecked off the coast of Ecuador in 1654 and also develop trade opportunities. He also spent three months tackling the Magellan Straits but failed, and

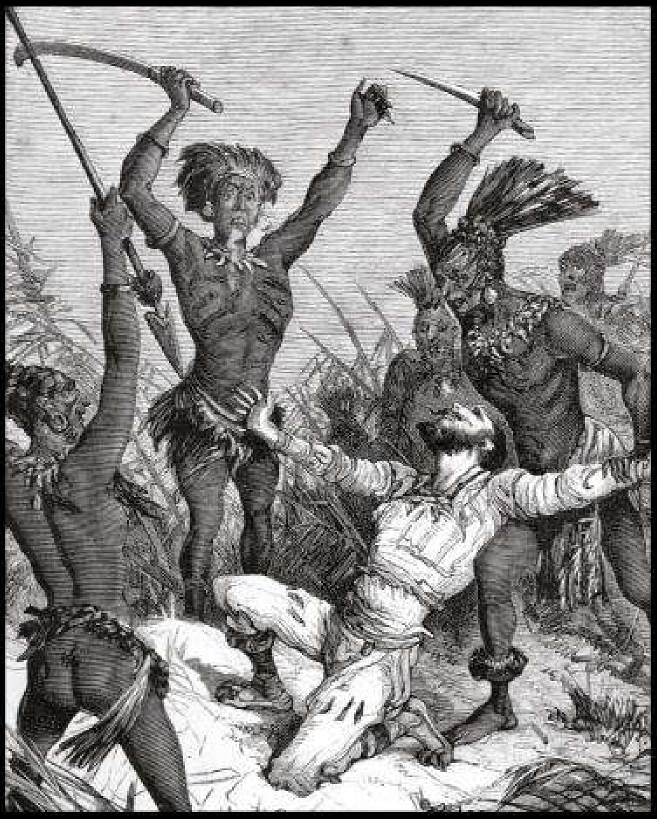


All Images © Alamy

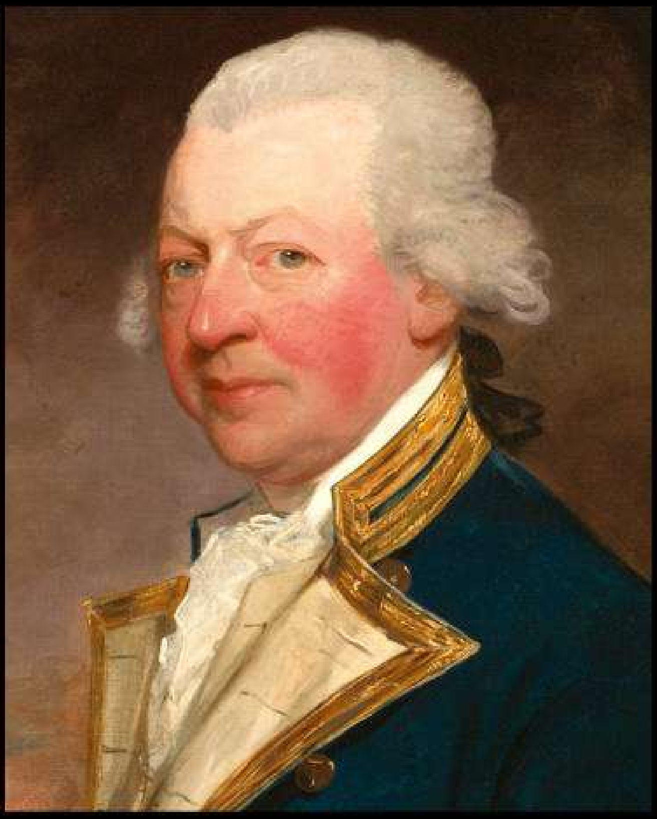
***Below:** Louis-Antoine, Comte de Bougainville, led a French-Canadian expedition to the Falkland Islands and established a colony at Port Louis*



***Below:** The renowned Spanish navigator Juan Diaz de Solis is murdered by natives during an expedition to South America in 1516*



***Below:** Captain John MacBride arrived in 1766 with orders to establish a settlement at Port Egmont and renamed Sebaldine Islands as Jason Island*



All images © Alamy

landing at Bold Cove, near Port Howard on 27 January 1690, named the passage between the two largest islands to be Falklands Sound in honour of Lord Falkland, First Lord of the Admiralty. The Falkland family coat of arms motto 'Desire the right' is in honour of Davis' ship, the Desire.

Arrival of the empire builders

The 1713 Peace of Utrecht signed by Holland, France, Great Britain, Portugal and Spain saw Spain renounce her claim to the French throne and preserve the balance of power in Europe. Great Britain took advantage of the vacuum to develop maritime, commercial and financial supremacy. In 1766 Captain John MacBride arrived at the islands with orders to establish a settlement at Port Egmont. Securing possession with a garrison and settlement, MacBride changed the name Sebaldine Islands to Jason Island, removing the Dutch and De Weert's place in the islands' history, superficially at least.

Meanwhile Louis-Antoine, Comte de Bougainville (1729 – 1811), a contemporary of James Cook who had fought in the Seven Years' War, assembled an expedition of French-Canadians expelled by the British from Canada in 1763 after they refused to sign loyalty oaths. Sailing south from St Malo, they arrived at Les Îles Malouines (Falkland Islands) and established a colony at Port Louis. De Bouganville then sold Port Egmont to the Spanish as Las Islas Malvinas, an act that nearly trigged the outbreak of war between Great Britain and Spain.

In 1774, the British withdrew, leaving the customary flag and lead plaque representing ownership, which was the accepted practice. Two years later, Spain established the Viceroy of the Rio de La Plata from their South American colonies.

The overflow of the French Revolution and the global effects of the Napoleonic War led to the British attacking Buenos Aires once in 1806 and twice in 1807, but were forced to surrender. After the 1810 May Revolution and Argentine independence, Spain and Britain abandoned the islands again and both left additional lead plaques asserting their rival claims. Importantly, the blue-and-white flag of Argentina was raised for the first time in 1812.

Argentina rises

In July 1816, the Congress of Tucuman formalised the Argentine Declaration of Independence. A royalist rebellion a year later was defeated by General Martin Miguel de Guemes. Next, General Jose de San Martin crossed the Andes and helped secure Chilean and Peruvian independence. Three years later, a centrist constitution drafted by Congress was rejected by federalists promoting the United Provinces of the River Plate, which gained independence six years later. The United Provinces of the River Plate incorporated what today is the nations, or certain regions, that are now part of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay.

Meanwhile, on 6 November 1820, Colonel David Jewett, a US naval officer turned United Provinces privateer, entered Port Louis on the islands in a ship with a long sickness list from Buenos Aires. He then claimed possession of the islands. Many historians point to this date as when Buenos Aires first took control of the Malvinas Islands. Jewett returned to Buenos Aires and later served in the Brazilian Navy. In 1823, Jorge Pacheco, a former soldier, and Luis Vernet, a naturalised Argentine of Franco-German ancestry, were granted fishing rights by the United Provinces. Although the project failed within the year, Pacheco kept Sir Woodbine Parish, the British Consul-General in Buenos Aries, informed, and was assured generous resources on East Falklands.

Islands in chaos

In 1828 Vernet was granted land by Buenos Aries to invest in a cattle ranch and gained permission to exploit the whaling, fishery and seal colonies. He approached Buenos Aries for an armed ship to patrol and protect the colony. However this was denied, but he was instead appointed the Military and Civil Commander — essentially a governor.

On 25 April 1829, Vernet reported the project to Parish, which alerted the Foreign Office to Argentine designs. Britain formally protested to the Argentine government on 19 November 1829 and although receipt was acknowledged within the week, no formal reply was made.

Though whaling was the main industry on the island, indiscriminate fishing by US sealers had reduced the whale population in the area. Vernet proposed to issue licences, but the US fisherman had no intention of paying. With no ships to patrol the waters around the islands, Vernet was forced to take action alone.

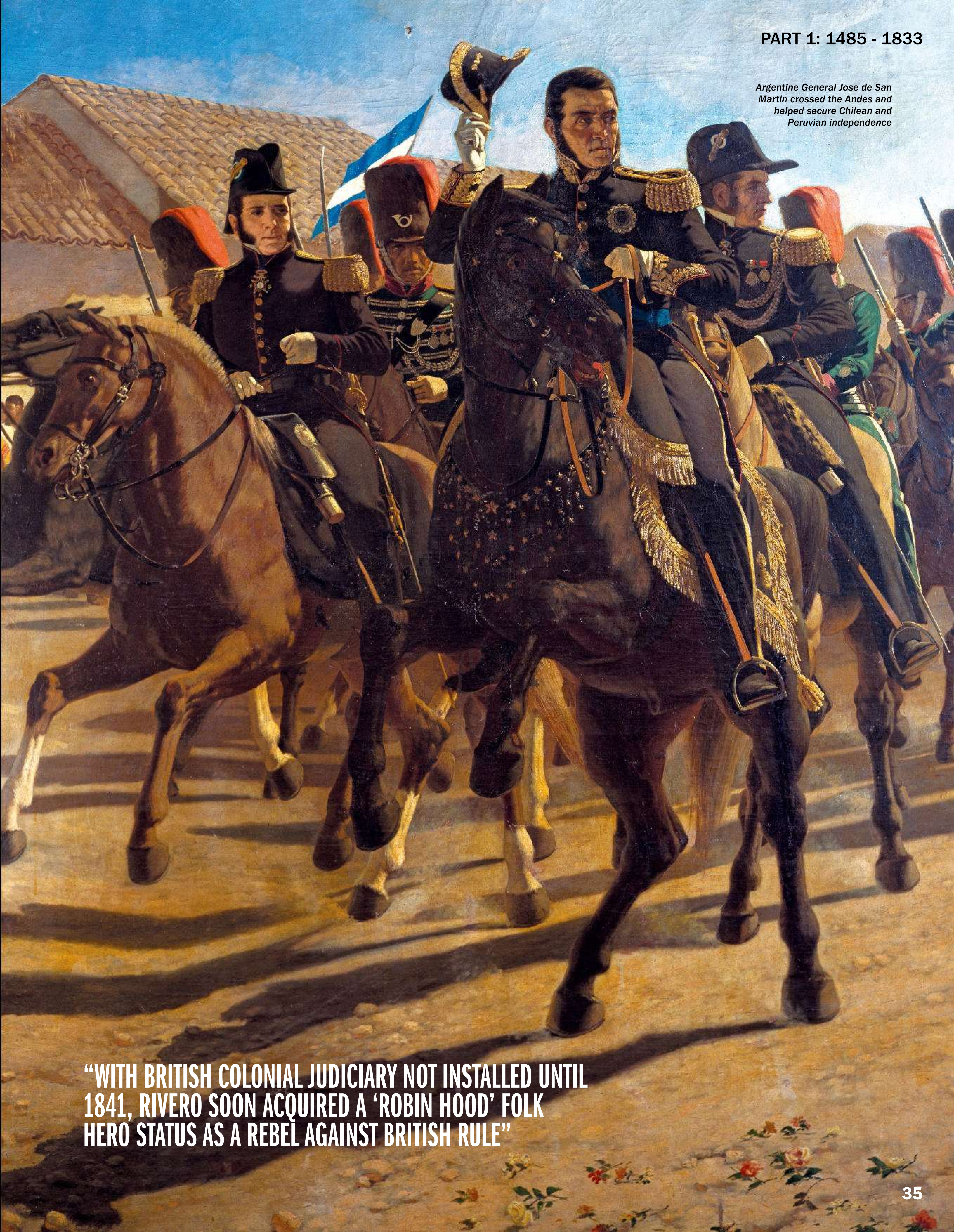
When Vernet arrested three sealers in 1831 and confiscated property on board, he was accused of piracy by the US. President Andrew Jackson ordered Captain Silas Duncan, commander of the USS Lexington, to intervene.

Duncan destroyed the armoury, powder store and private property at Port Louis. He reported the colony consisted of about 40 people and 'gauchos' – mainly German citizens from Buenos Aires – who were delighted to be leaving the isolated region with a cold climate and unproductive soil. Among those who remained were Charrua Indian traders who were on Vernet's payroll.

With the colony in disarray, on 10 September 1832 Buenos Aries appointed Artillery Sergeant-Major Esteban Mestivier to be the military and civil commander and instructed him to establish a penal colony.

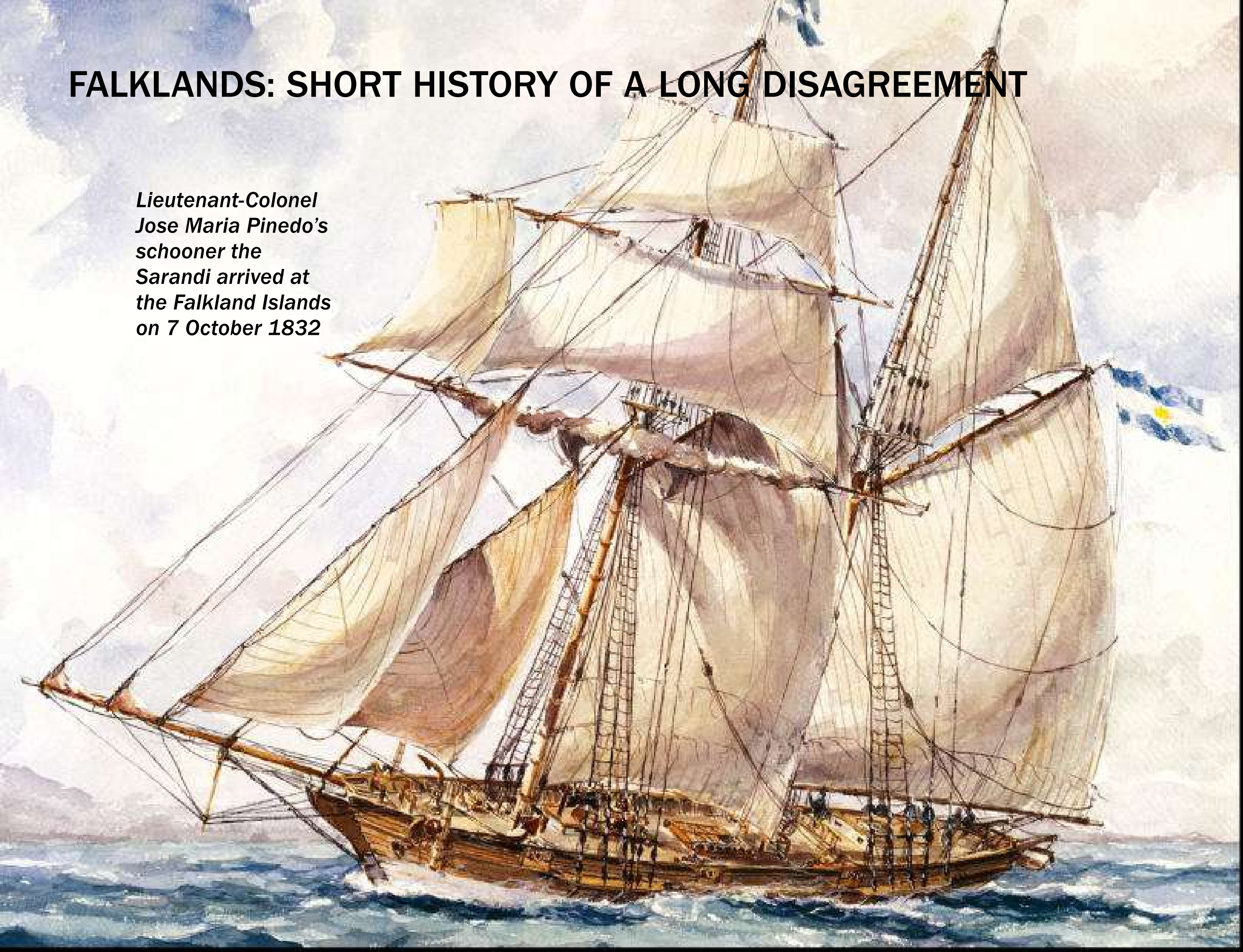
On 7 October the schooner Sarandi, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Jose Maria Pinedo, arrived with a small garrison of marines, 28 soldiers and their families under command of Mestevier, as well as his pregnant wife. Several soldiers who had recently been released from prison and had agreed to serve in the army were in the group. Also on board was William Dickson from Dublin, who was appointed as the Port Louis storekeeper.

When the colonists landed on 10 October and claimed the islands for the United Provinces, they disregarded the British claim 67 years

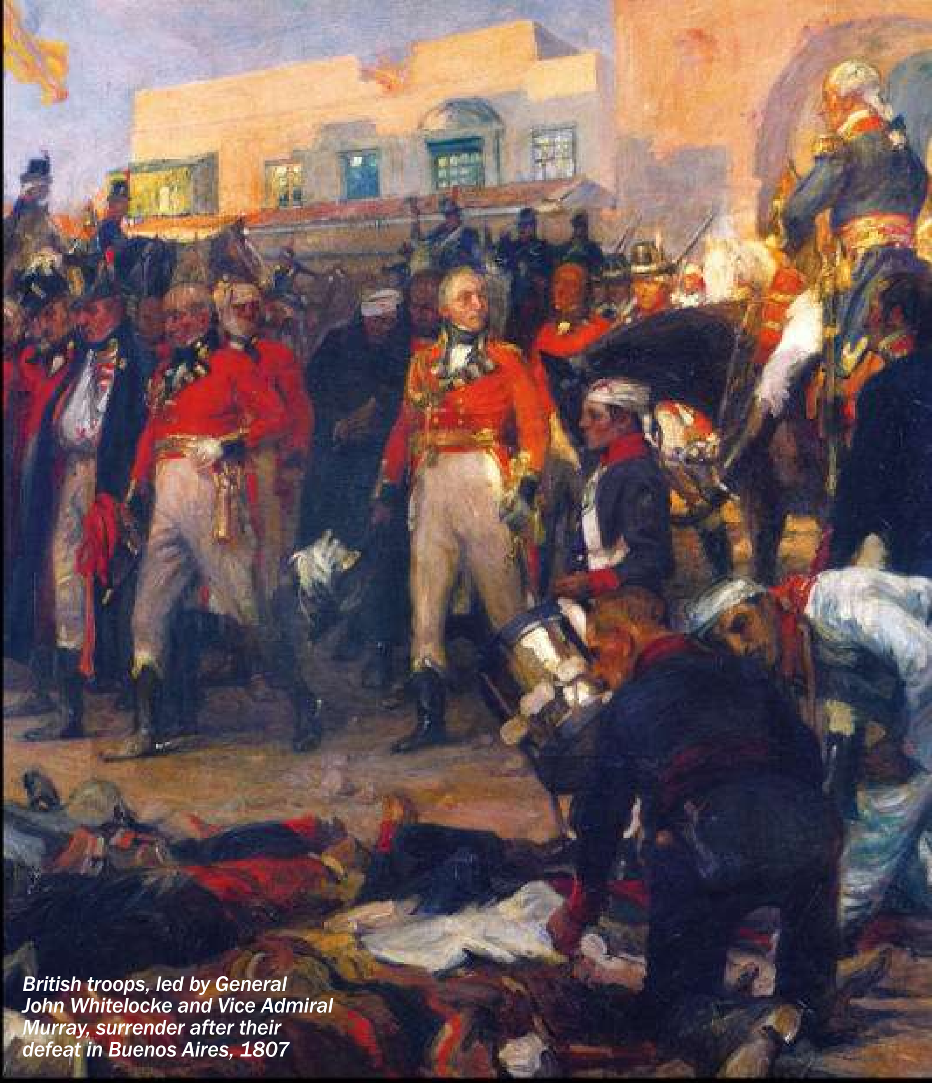


Argentine General Jose de San Martin crossed the Andes and helped secure Chilean and Peruvian independence

> **"WITH BRITISH COLONIAL JUDICIARY NOT INSTALLED UNTIL 1841, RIVERO SOON ACQUIRED A 'ROBIN HOOD' FOLK HERO STATUS AS A REBEL AGAINST BRITISH RULE"**



Lieutenant-Colonel Jose Maria Pinedo's schooner the Sarandi arrived at the Falkland Islands on 7 October 1832



British troops, led by General John Whitelocke and Vice Admiral Murray, surrender after their defeat in Buenos Aires, 1807

previous. Nine days after the Sarandi departed on patrol, on 30 November, the garrison mutinied and Mestivier was murdered by a sergeant and three soldiers. A couple who managed a bar were also murdered. The mutineers then stole horses and fled. Adjutant Juan Antonio Gomila, Mestivier's second-in-command, announced he proposed to move in with Mestivier's widow. It was later learned that Gomila was implicated in the mutiny. The crews of the British sealer "Rapid" and the French whaler Jean Jacques, who had seen the mutiny, protected Mrs Mestivier during the violence.

Meanwhile 'gauchos' and Frenchmen from the Jean Jacques captured the mutineers near Estancia and locked them in the brig on Rapid. Mestivier was buried immediately in an unmarked grave. The whaler took the news of the mutiny to Montevideo on 9 December.

Britain returns

The British Consulate was unimpressed with the failure of Buenos Aires to give a full account of the incident. On 28 November Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Baker, C-in-C South American station, sent an order to Captain John Onslow, commanding officer of the brig-sloop HMS Clio armed with 16 32lb guns:

"The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, having, in pursuance of His Majesty's pleasure, signified to me their directions to despatch a ship of the squadron under my orders to Port Egmont, in the Falkland Islands, for the purpose of exercising the rights of sovereignty there, and of acting at the said islands as in a possession belonging to the crown of Great Britain; you are hereby required and directed to put to sea tomorrow morning in his Majesty's sloop Clio, under your command, and proceed with all expedition to Port Egmont, for the purpose of exercising the rights of sovereignty over the said islands, and of acting there as the said islands as in a possession belonging to the crown of Great Britain… restore sovereignty consisting of the blockhouse, flagstaff, formerly erected, if they have fallen into disrepair."

"MESTIVIER WAS MURDERED BY A SERGEANT AND THREE SOLDIERS"

HMS Clio sailed the following day with orders to take possession of the Falklands. Also in the task force was HMS Tyne (Captain Charles Hope) armed with 28 guns. Onslow arrived off Port Egmont on 20 December to find the British settlement abandoned. Sailing that night, Clio entered Berkeley Sound, and at about 9am on 3 January 1833 it arrived off Port Louis at about 9am. Covered by her guns, three boats manned with seamen and marines landed where Onslow met Lieutenant Colonel Pinedo.

Onslow instructed Pinedo that since he was on British territory, he should lower the United Provinces flag and embark his force. Although bound by the Argentine Code of Naval Honour to defend flags to the last man, most of Pinedo's crew were British mercenaries, and others mutinous, leaving the officer little choice. Reluctantly acquiescing, Pinedo replied the order was a "gross outrage by a friendly and powerful nation which has always boasted fidelity and moderation and the cordiality of its feelings towards the Argentine Republic".

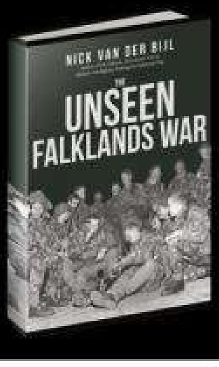
Onslow refused Pinedo time to ask for orders, and under protest Pinedo and those who wanted to leave departed on 5 January. He also took the mutineers, of which seven were condemned to death. Two were flogged and then jailed and two were recalled into the army. Onslow departed on 7 January and was replaced by HMS Tyne three days later.

In August, Antonio Rivero and a gang of 'gauchos' murdered five prominent citizens of Port Louis, then sought refuge on Turf Island. They embarked on the British sealer Hopeful in October and were sent for trial in London, but the Crown Courts had no jurisdiction over the Falkland Islands. With British colonial judiciary not installed until 1841, Rivero soon acquired a 'Robin Hood' folk hero status as a rebel against British rule.

Contemporary accounts suggest that settlers of many nationalities were encouraged to colonise the Falklands during the 19th century. The Falklands Islands Company was founded in 1851 to exploit the wild cattle descended from herds imported by the French, while sheep farming became the new basis of the economy. In 1861, Argentina emerged after years of civil war as a country that welcomed immigration from Italy, Germany and Spain, and by the mid-20th century grew to be one of the ten wealthiest nations. In 1892, the Falklands was recognised to be a self-supporting British colony of about 2,000 people.

In the 19th century, the British Army order of battle consisted of the Regular Forces managed by the War Office and Militia Forces raised to maintain law and order under the control of lord-lieutenants and governors in the colonies. In 1859, the War Office raised the Volunteer Force of rifle and artillery corps and placed them under War Office control in 1871. Governor Richard Moody formed the 'Stanley Volunteers' during the Crimean War. The unofficial 'Falkland Islands Volunteers' was mobilised in June 1892 when a Chilean steamer with about 200 soldiers on board from one of the belligerents of the Chilean Civil War docked in Stanley.

Nick Van Der Bijl's book The Unseen Falklands War is available now from Amberley Publishing



IN PART 2 The 20th century brings new conflicts to the South Atlantic shores and further disputes over sovereignty slip into a bloody conflict

All images © Alamy

T-212680
BELVEDERE
52

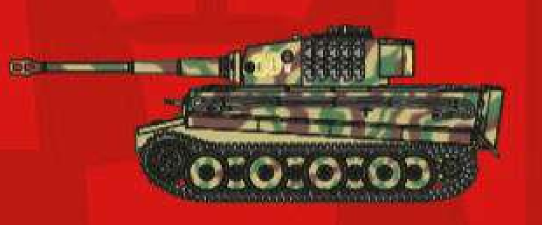
AIRFIX
CLASSIC CONFLICT
Humbrol
Set includes
1:72 TIGER I SHERMAN FIREFLY Vc

TIGER I
SHERMAN FIREFLY VC

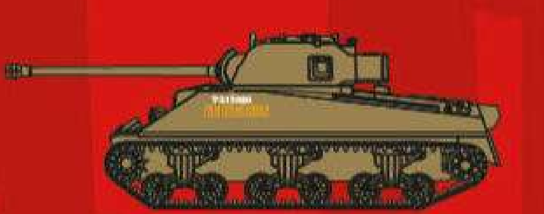
1:72 A50186

The mighty clash of armour which followed the successful Allied landings on the D-Day beaches of Normandy held the potential to determine the outcome of the war. This time, the dominance of the feared Tiger 1 would be challenged by rocket firing Typhoons from the air and a recently introduced Allied tank on the ground - although appearing outwardly similar to the standard Sherman at first glance, the 17-pounder anti-tank gun mounted on the 'Firefly' was more than capable of knocking out a Tiger. The Germans soon learned to look for the long barrelled Shermans first in any engagement and to make the Firefly a priority target, however, there were so many Shermans in Normandy that misidentification was highly likely and could prove fatal. The days of the mighty Tiger's dominance may have been numbered, but no Allied tank commander would relish the prospect of facing one in combat.

PZKPFW TIGER 1 AUSF E
Commanded by Michael Wittmann, schwere Panzer-Abteilung 101, Normandy, France, 1944.
Length 118mm Width 53mm Pieces 96



SHERMAN FIREFLY VC
Staffordshire Yeomanry, 27th Armoured Brigade, Operation Goodwood, Normandy, France, June 1944.
Length 110mm Width 37mm Pieces 88



Airfix.com
and all good retail stockists

Start as you mean to finish
Humbrol™

Use your smartphone
to find out more!

HORNBY HOBBIES
Official Product

THE DOOLITTLE RAID

On 18 April 1942, American bombers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle took off from the USS Hornet. **Their target:** Tokyo. **Their mission:** Avenge Pearl Harbor

WORDS: **MICHAEL E HASKEW**

© Getty

Capt. Marc A. Mitscher, captain of the USS Hornet, poses with Lt. Col. James Doolittle and aircrew, April 1942

The Doolittle Raid was an audacious bombing attack against Tokyo on 18 April 1942, as American carrier-based aircraft struck the Japanese capital city. The raid was conducted by 16 North American B-25 Mitchell medium bombers of the US Army Air Forces (USAAF), flying from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet. This audacious mission was conceived, planned and executed within five months of the 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The bombing of US military installations had plunged the previously neutral nation into World War II.

The Doolittle Raid was undertaken in response to the string of Japanese victories during the early months of World War II in the Pacific. Following Pearl Harbor, the Japanese had seized Wake Island, Guam and the Dutch East Indies. Japanese forces were surging across the Philippines and advancing on all fronts. The Doolittle Raid, though risky, was intended to bolster American morale and to strike a surprising blow against the Japanese, who considered their island nation unassailable by enemy forces.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed his personal interest in bombing Japan early in the Pacific War; however, the distance involved in crossing the expanse of the Pacific Ocean and the risk to precious US military assets made the prospects for such an attack seem remote. Nevertheless, Captain Francis S Low, commander-in-chief of the US Navy, proposed that USAAF bombers, which possessed greater range than naval aircraft, might be launched from the deck of an American aircraft carrier sailing within striking distance of the Japanese home islands.

Planning the raid

Although such a high-risk mission was fraught with danger, a joint Army-Navy task group was detailed to work out a plan. Volunteer pilots and crewmen would be recruited to fly USAAF bombers from an aircraft carrier and bomb the Japanese capital city of Tokyo along with the nearby industrial centres of Nagoya, Osaka, Yokohama, Yokosuka and Kobe. The aircraft could carry only enough fuel to reach the targets from an optimal range of about 640km off the Japanese coast. The raiders would complete their bombing runs against industrial targets in the cities and then fly on to land at friendly airfields in China. There would be no return flight or recovery aboard the aircraft carrier.

Along with the B-25 Mitchell medium bombers, usually a land-based aircraft, 24 crews, each of five men, were chosen to train and potentially execute the raid. They were detailed to Eglin Air Base, Florida, for intensive training during March 1942. Navy pilots demonstrated carrier takeoff and landing procedures, and the Army aircrews practised on a stretch of runway painted to simulate a carrier flight deck, only 150m long. The B-25s were stripped of most of their armament in order to carry modest bomb loads, including three 500lb general purpose bombs and a single incendiary bomb cluster, along with as many containers of reserve aviation fuel as possible.

Intrepid Jimmy Doolittle

For it to have any chance of success, the raid needed to be led by an experienced pilot with nerves of steel and outstanding command presence. Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle was chosen for the task. He was a 45-year-

B-25 bombers on the rear deck of the USS Hornet as it steams towards Japan, with two escort vessels following close in the background

© Getty

old former bantamweight boxer, oil company executive, mining engineer, veteran of World War I and a pioneer aviator. He had served as a flying instructor during the Great War and performed as a stunt pilot during the 1920s. Doolittle was also an air racer, competing for the prestigious Schneider Trophy against international aviators, and winning the Bendix Trophy in 1931. In the same year he captured the Thompson Trophy at a competition in Cleveland, Ohio, setting a world speed record of 406.65kph in an 800-horsepower Gee Bee Super Sportster.

Doolittle had remained in the Army Air Corps reserves and was called to active duty in July 1940 with the rank of major. Prior to the planning for the bombing raid on Tokyo, he toured British Royal Air Force installations in Europe and Asia. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in January 1942 and soon tapped to lead the risky raid.

"It had three real purposes," Doolittle told an interviewer later. "One purpose was to give the folks at home the first good news that we'd had in World War II. It caused the Japanese to question their warlords, and from a tactical point of view it caused the retention of aircraft in Japan for the defence of the home islands when we had no intention of hitting them again, seriously, in the near future. Those airplanes would have been much more effective in the South Pacific where the war was going on."

The mission moves forward

After rigorous training, 16 aircrews were chosen for the historic mission and on 1 April 1942 they boarded the aircraft carrier USS Hornet at the Alameda Naval Air Station in San Francisco Bay. The B-25s were lashed to the carrier deck, as they were too large for stowage on the hangar deck below, and two days later Hornet put to sea, sailing beneath the Golden Gate Bridge and into the Pacific. It was joined by an escort of two cruisers, four destroyers and a fleet oiler.

Only after boarding Hornet were the aviators informed of their target. Doolittle addressed them: "For the benefit of those who have been guessing, we are going to bomb Japan. The Navy will get us as close as possible, and launch us off the deck." He asked if any of the men wanted to opt out of the hazardous mission, and none did.

On 8 April, a second US Navy task force steamed out of Pearl Harbor, headed for a Pacific rendezvous with Hornet and her consorts. The aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, two cruisers, four destroyers and another oiler met the Hornet group in the open sea on 13 April, and the combined Task Force 16 headed for enemy waters.

The element of surprise had always been a key component in the American plan, but the fortunes of war nearly created a catastrophe. At 7:38am on 18 April, Task Force 16 was approximately 1,000km off the Japanese coast. In the morning mist, a 70-ton Japanese patrol boat, No. 23 Nitto Maru, was sighted on the horizon. No doubt lookouts aboard the vessel had seen the large American task force and were busy alerting higher command in Japan. Immediately, the light cruiser USS Nashville went to battle stations and engaged the enemy, sinking the patrol boat with gunfire and then pulling 11 survivors out of the water.

The Americans were on the horns of a dilemma. They had been discovered but were unsure as to whether the warning from Nitto Maru had reached Tokyo and even then if the Japanese would take further action. The options appeared grim – abort the mission and steam away rapidly or launch the B-25s immediately, from a distance 320km further from Japan and ten hours earlier than planned. The carriers were vulnerable and critical to the American war effort – virtually irreplaceable. To make matters worse, weather conditions were far from ideal. Vice Admiral William F 'Bull' Halsey and Doolittle chose the latter course of action.

Bombers away!

At 8:20am on 18 April 1942, Doolittle revved the twin engines of the first B-25 bomber to launch from Hornet. He gained speed as the plane roared down the pitching flight deck. The B-25 dipped precipitously toward the wavetops and then clawed its way into the air, ocean spray whipping in all directions. One by one, the other B-25s followed. They formed up amid low clouds and then headed for Japan at 360kph, their throttles leaned to conserve precious fuel.

The American planes flew low and hugged the Japanese coastline after making landfall. Flying over Honshu, the largest of the home islands, they climbed to 1,200 feet in clear skies as they neared their target cities. The airmen were under specific orders to avoid dropping their payloads on the Imperial Palace, the residence of Emperor Hirohito, or

© Getty

© Getty

Above: *A B-25 bomber prepares for take-off from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet as part of the Doolittle Raid on Japan, April 1942*

Left: *The crew of No.2 Doolittle bomber, which crash-landed in China after the raid, photographed on the USS Hornet shortly before the mission (see p42 top-left photo)*

Below: *American B-29 bombers fly close to Mount Fuji, in 1945. US bombing raids grew more regular once air superiority had been achieved over Japan close to the end of WWII*

© Alamy

“THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A KEY COMPONENT IN THE AMERICAN PLAN, BUT THE FORTUNES OF WAR NEARLY CREATED A CATASTROPHE”

Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle was selected to lead the daring raid due to his vast experience as a pilot and outstanding leadership skills

© Getty

© Getty

any civilian targets such as schools, markets, hospitals or residential areas.

As the American bombers swept over the suburbs of Tokyo, surprise was total. Children playing in schoolyards waved at the low-flying planes and civilians in the crowded, bustling streets took virtually no notice of the aircraft, thinking they were friendly. Air raid drills were common, as were military exercises, so they went about their business.

At 12:15pm, Doolittle released his bombs above the Japanese capital city. The second B-25, piloted by Lieutenant Travis Hooper, made its run as well. Others followed suit, and the bombers assigned to hit the remaining cities completed their missions. Air defence was nearly non-existent. A few bursts of anti-aircraft fire blossomed, and fighters were scrambled late in the game, but to no avail. Although little real damage was done, one 500lb bomb struck the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft carrier Ryuho, drydocked for repairs at Yokosuka, and smoke roiled skyward from factories, oil storage tanks and other facilities. The Japanese high command was stunned, and the repercussions of the raid were destined to alter the course of World War II in the Pacific.

***Left:** No.2 Doolittle bomber crew with Tung Sheng-Liu (in the light blazer), a Chinese national who helped the stranded airmen escape after their crash-landing*

The perilous passage

The American bombers had been scattered during the raid and tried to regroup as best they could en route to Chinese airfields. The crewmen particularly hoped to reach the landing strip at Chiuchow in Guangdong Province, about 2,500km from Tokyo, and avoid Japanese troops on the Asian mainland. Bad weather forced the B-25 pilots to fly low at first, some descending to 600 feet before opting to climb into the murky clouds and continue on instruments.

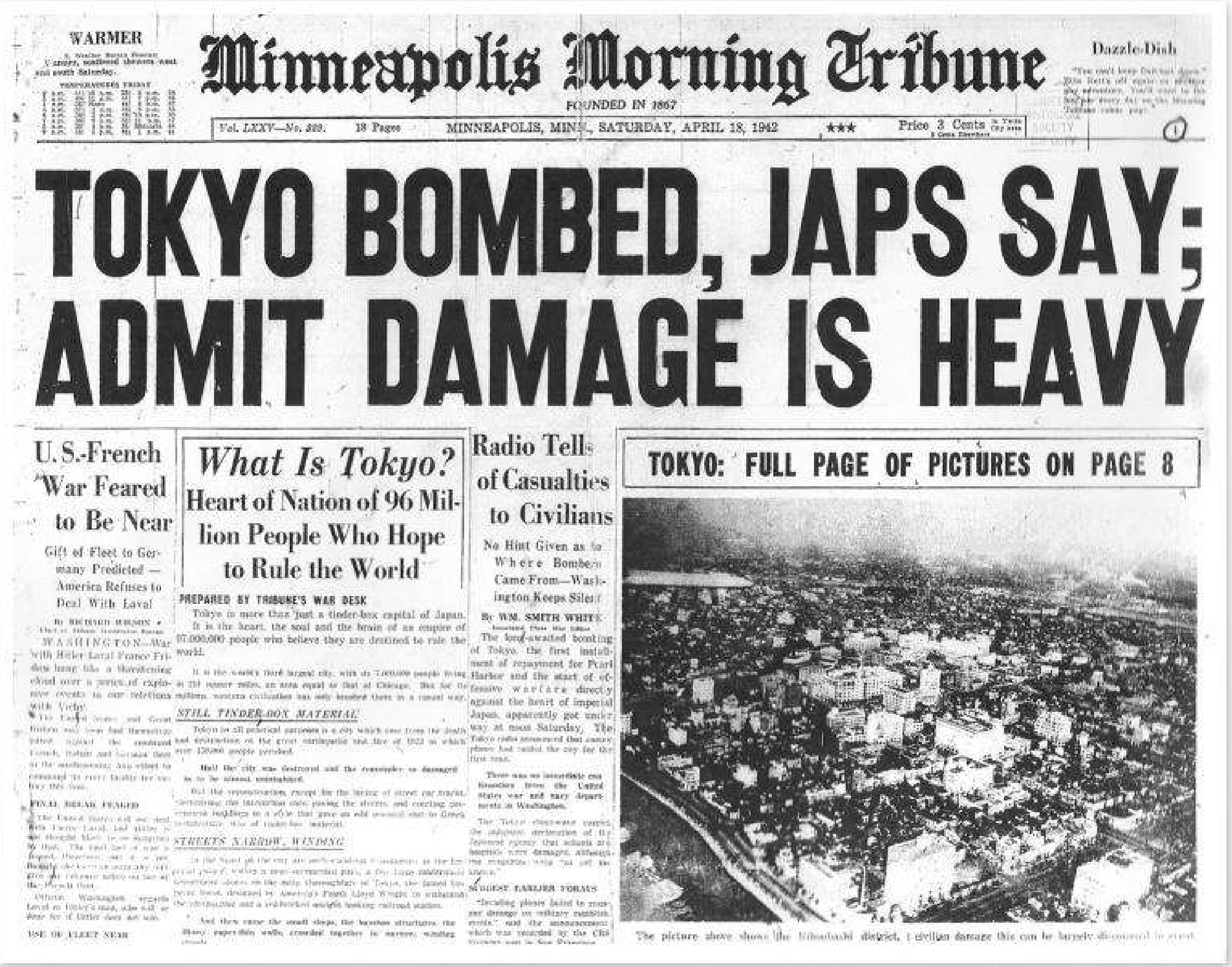
As the Americans reached the Chinese mainland, their fuel tanks were nearly depleted after 13 hours in the air, and Chiuchow could not be raised on their radios. Crucial minutes slipped away, and several pilots were compelled to ditch in coastal waters or crash land. One plane landed at an airfield in Vladivostok, in the Soviet Union, and its crew was interned for the duration of the war.

"When you do a bombing mission, you like to bring your airplanes home," remembered Doolittle, who parachuted to earth in a soggy rice paddy. "I had scattered mine all over different parts of China." Doolittle told a member of his crew: "You know what's going to happen? I'll be put in Leavenworth Prison for having missed the mission."

Only one of the 80 airmen involved was killed during the surprise raid, while eight men were captured by the Japanese. After a show trial in China, these prisoners were transported to Tokyo, where three were beheaded and one died in prison. The Japanese had conducted a three-month search for American personnel,

© Getty

***Right:** To boost morale in the USA, reports of the raid exaggerated the damage caused, but the mission was a significant tactical success vital to Japan's eventual defeat*



WARMER

Minneapolis Morning Tribune

FOUNDED IN 1867

Vol. LXXV—No. 339. 18 Pages MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1942 ★★★ Price 3 Cents

Dazzle-Dish

TOKYO BOMBED, JAPS SAY; ADMIT DAMAGE IS HEAVY

U.S.-French War Feared to Be Near

Gift of Fleet to Germany Predicted — America Refuses to Deal With Laval

What Is Tokyo?

Heart of Nation of 96 Million People Who Hope to Rule the World

PREPARED BY TRIBUNE'S WAR DESK

Tokyo is more than just a tinder-box capital of Japan. It is the heart, the soul and the brain of an empire of 97,000,000 people who believe they are destined to rule the world.

STILL TINDER-BOX MATERIAL

STREETS NARROW, WINDING

Radio Tells of Casualties to Civilians

No Hint Given as to Where Bombers Came From—Washington Keeps Silent

By WM. SMITH WHITE

The long-awaited bombing of Tokyo, the first installment of repayment for Pearl Harbor and the start of offensive warfare directly against the heart of imperial Japan, apparently got under way at noon Saturday.

TOKYO: FULL PAGE OF PICTURES ON PAGE 8

© Getty

brutalising the Chinese populace and killing thousands while torching villages.

The remaining Doolittle Raid survivors found their way out of China, aided by friendly farmers and townspeople along the way. They travelled in secrecy and several narrowly avoided capture while attempting to reach Chungking, the wartime Chinese capital. Doolittle went on to hold high command in the USAAF during the rest of World War II, including command of the Eighth Air Force in England.

News of the Doolittle Raid was not immediately made public. However, President Roosevelt awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross to the men involved. When the President finally acknowledged the raid publicly, he was asked where the attacking bombers had come from. Roosevelt grinned and replied, "Shangri-La!" in reference to the mythical realm in author James Hilton's best-selling 1933 novel *Lost Horizon*.

The Japanese response

For the Japanese military and political hierarchy there was obviously no humour in the Doolittle Raid. In fact, it had become abundantly clear that the island nation was not impregnable and might be attacked again from the air. Therefore the decision was made to extend the Japanese defensive perimeter further across the expanse of the Pacific.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Combined Fleet, hastily devised plans to seize Port Moresby, at the southeastern tip of the island of New Guinea, and threaten Australia. Then, he intended to rapidly move against the American base at Midway Atoll, 1,800km from Hawaii. In both instances, the Japanese were thwarted, first in the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942, and then in the epic Battle of Midway the following month. Japanese losses at Midway were shattering, and the defeat of the Imperial forces is considered the turning point of World War II in the Pacific.

The strategic consequences of the Doolittle Raid were far greater than the fairly minor damage inflicted by the handful of American bombers: Japanese ambitions in the Pacific were suspended for a defensive posture that ultimately led to their defeat.

The crews of the Doolittle Raid receive their Distinguished Flying Cross medals at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington DC, 29 June 1942

Heroes of the Medal of Honor

JAMES STOCKDALE

The highest-ranking US POW during the Vietnam War, imprisoned for nearly eight years, this air wing commander was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery and leadership while incarcerated

WORDS: **MURRAY DAHM**

James Bond Stockdale (his middle name was his mother's maiden name), joined the US Naval Academy as a 20-year-old in 1943. After serving on several vessels, he was accepted for flight training in 1949, completing it in 1954. In 1959 he was sent to Stanford University as a 38-year-old naval pilot to study for a Master's Degree in international relations.

Stockdale became interested in philosophy, and especially in the ancient philosopher Epictetus, in his final year at university in 1962. He had been in the navy for more than 20 years already and had, he recalled, scarcely left the cockpit. Encouraged by a professor, Stockdale read the *Enchiridion of Epictetus* (a handbook of stoic behaviour written in the first century BCE) and it would be a profound influence on his thoughts and deeds for the rest of his life. No matter where he was stationed, by his bedside were a copy of Epictetus, Xenophon's *Memorabilia* (a more accessible account of Socrates' life than in Plato's dialogues), and Homer's epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. He credited Epictetus with changing his life and with his survival.

Stockdale then undertook what he called "three seven-month cruises to the waters off Vietnam" as the commander of Fighter Squadron 51, flying F-8 Crusaders and A-4 Skyhawks. He participated in the first-ever bombing raid on North Vietnam (on 5 August, 1964), flying off the Essex-class aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga (CV-14). This raid on North Vietnam was in retaliation for the Gulf of Tonkin Incident on 2 August, in which the USS Maddox had been attacked by three Vietnamese P-4 torpedo boats. Stockdale had flown an F-8 (one of four) that engaged the enemy boats, and he was also in the air during the 'second incident' on 4 August, when another attack by torpedo boats was reported. Stockdale recorded, however, that there were no enemy targets on 4 August and that the US Navy was shooting at phantoms. Later, as a POW, he feared he might reveal that secret, but never did. The raids on 5 August were in retaliation for the 'attack' on 4 August – Stockdale's response: "Retaliation for what?"

> **"I WHISPERED A 'CHANT' TO MYSELF AS I WAS MARCHED AT GUNPOINT TO MY DAILY INTERROGATION: 'CONTROL FEAR, CONTROL GUILT, CONTROL FEAR, CONTROL GUILT'"**
>
> **James Stockdale,**
> ***Courage Under Fire***

During his third tour in 1965, Stockdale was involved in daily sorties as air wing commander, flying off the Essex-class USS Oriskany (CV-34), the 'Mighty O'. On 9 September, 1965, he flew at 500 knots right into a flak trap, at tree-top level. His blazing plane, with its control systems disabled, was impossible to steer and Stockdale ejected. He later recalled that he whispered to himself that he was entering the world of Epictetus. He estimated he would be a prisoner for at least five years, in fact he would be a POW for seven-and-a-half. Epictetus' teachings shaped how he would deal with his incarceration and his inhumane treatment. Those teachings were essential to separating within his mind the things within his control and those things beyond his control. Stockdale would put into effect this and many other of Epictetus' precepts during his time as a POW in Hoa Lo Prison, Hanoi, most commonly referred to as the 'Hanoi Hilton'.

As he descended by parachute, the North Vietnamese on the ground began shooting at him. When he landed, he was set upon and had his leg broken before the mob was called off him by an officer. Before Stockdale had landed, he knew that there would be many things to come

© Alamy

that would be out of his control; as a student of Epictetus, he would be tested to the extreme.

Stockdale knew he was going to become a prisoner and he was determined to behave differently to those men whose experiences he had seen reported in the aftermath of the Korean War, when it had been every man for himself among the POWs. Stockdale was determined that he would keep faith with his fellow prisoners, in keeping with Article 4 of *The US Fighting Man's Code*, written in 1955 in the aftermath of the Korean War. The Code also stated that a US soldier should give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to his comrades. As a senior officer, and Stockdale would be the most senior, he should take command (the chain of command was to be observed by American POWs). His actions as a prisoner of the North VIetnamese would lead to his being awarded the Medal of Honor.

Although he was eventually given a pair of crutches, his leg never healed properly and Stockdale was treated brutally, as were his fellow POWs. His rank was never recognised by his captors but he took command of 50 fellow pilots and navigators (calling them "backseat electronic wizards"). That number grew to more than 400 as the war progressed. Before any POW saw another American, all were subjected to a torture Stockdale called "taking the ropes". This involved being bound with ropes, with your hands behind your back and upper body jackknifed forward and down towards the ankles, which were held secure in lugs attached to an iron bar. Being restrained in this position stopped the circulation in the upper body and caused excruciating pain as well as a feeling of ever-increasing claustrophobia. In this state, men could be made to confess to almost anything. The procedure could be repeated at any time during captivity and was only one of the techniques of torture inflicted upon the POWs.

"HE DELIBERATELY INFLICTED A NEAR-MORTAL WOUND TO HIS PERSON IN ORDER TO CONVINCE HIS CAPTORS OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE RATHER THAN CAPITULATE"

Medal of Honor citation

It was during such sessions that the prisoners were made to confess their 'crimes'. Sessions of isolation often followed for the men to contemplate their 'crimes' and repent. These processes were often repeated. However, the idea that, once-broken, a prisoner would not be subjected to such treatment again, or that the jailers would become bored of dishing out such treatment, were fallacies. The breaking of any rule (of which there were many and which were often petty) would result in interrogation; such 'crimes' were called 'black activities'. Stockdale was interrogated daily.

He later reflected that the repercussions of such treatment were much more damaging in terms of how the men saw themselves afterwards, judging themselves on how they had behaved and what they had said, rather than any long-lasting physical damage. Feelings of guilt and of betraying themselves, their country and their comrades were the most damaging – a broken limb was nothing in comparison. Stockdale was well aware that he would lose control on occasion under questioning; his response to those situations – contemplating what he was in control of – allowed him to recover.

One of the ways Stockdale demonstrated his outstanding leadership was in rehabilitating the men who felt like traitors after they were tortured. Later, he said that the men who didn't make it out of incarceration in Vietnam were the optimists – those who thought rescue or the war's end was imminent; they died of broken hearts when their brutal treatment continued interminably. The captors wanted the prisoners to repent for their 'crimes' and show shame, bowing to all in authority. This was resisted as much as possible and some of this resistance was active – Stockdale led a riot to get the prisoners out of leg irons, which resulted in him spending a year in isolation.

The prisoners used a (forbidden) method of communication using a tap-code, whereby the alphabet was organised into five groups of five letters (c and k occupying the same space) and the tap indicated which group and which letter in the group. This too was a technique from ancient history, the method first described by the historian Polybius in the second century BCE. The tap code allowed the prisoners to communicate but also to resist and form a society within the prison. The tap code was used to order men to undergo torture processes or to refuse to comply with the demands of their captors. Despite knowing the consequences, following such orders also allowed the POWs to have some control over their situation – they were in control of when they were tortured, not the people torturing them. Stockdale later called this "my kind of Stoicism", where the prisoners were the masters of their own fate. He often issued his orders via the tap code using acronyms, one of the most common being 'BACK US', which stood for 'Don't Bow in public, stay off the Air, admit no Crimes, never Kiss them goodbye'. 'US' could be interpreted as United States, but it really meant 'Unity over Self'.

Stockdale encouraged togetherness and the sense that all of the prisoners had to look out for one another. Even when being filmed,

James Stockdale pictured after his Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House

All images © Alamy

***Above:** Stockdale encouraged his fellow POWs to look out for one another and resist their Vietnamese captors*

***Above:** American prisoners of war were subjected to brutal torture methods during their incarceration in the notorious Hanoi Hilton jail*

some American airmen began to use double meanings in their sentences, gestures, and practical jokes to thwart and shame their captors. A few American POWs, less than five per cent, remained aloof from this society, never learned the tap code and chose to remain loners; these men were known as 'finks'. When back in the US, Stockdale attempted to have two of them put on trial for their complicit behaviour while POWs but the government refused.

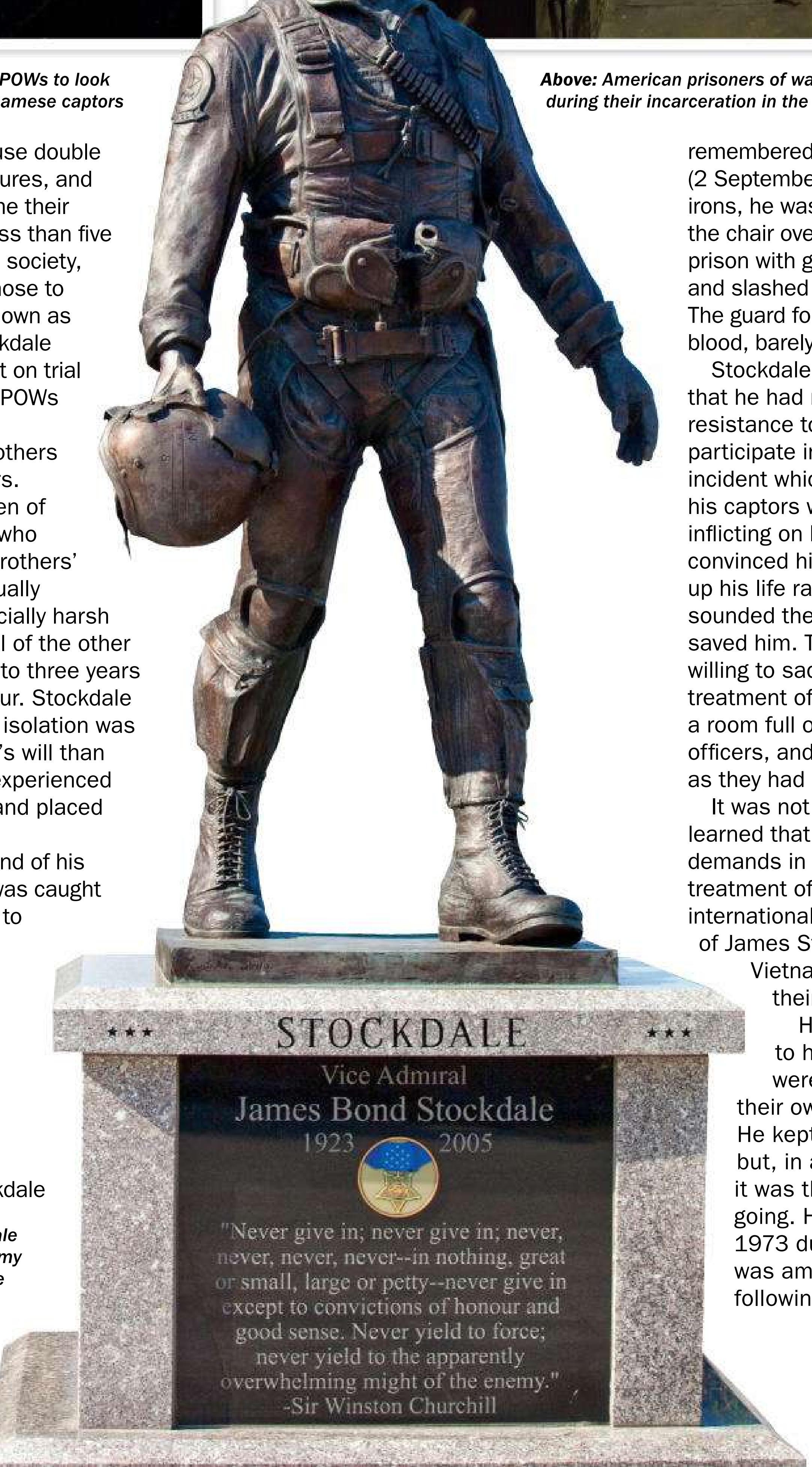
Stockdale had a cohort of ten others who helped him lead the prisoners. These were not necessarily all men of high rank but consisted of those who "refused to quit trying to be our brothers' keepers". These men were eventually isolated and singled out for especially harsh treatment to try and break the will of the other prisoners – most were subjected to three years solitary confinement, others to four. Stockdale was of the opinion that long-term isolation was more effective at breaking a man's will than torture — although some who'd experienced less solitary isolation disagreed and placed torture as a more potent method.

In the autumn of 1969, at the end of his fourth year as a POW, Stockdale was caught with a note containing a message to another prisoner. Knowing it was information that could be used to break other inmates, and aware that some fellow POWs had been killed in purges or where torture was taken too far, he decided to take drastic action. Left alone in the main torture room on the evening before he was due to be interrogated about the note, Stockdale remembered that Ho Chi Minh had just died (2 September, 1969). Sitting in a chair in leg irons, he was able to douse the light and wiggle the chair over to the window, the only one in the prison with glass. He smashed the window and slashed at his wrists with the shards. The guard found him passed out in a pool of blood, barely breathing.

Stockdale's Medal of Honor citation stated that he had risked his life while a POW, leading resistance to interrogation and refusing to participate in propaganda exploitation. The incident which most impressed this attitude on his captors was this deliberate self-mutilation, inflicting on himself a near-mortal wound which convinced his captors of his "willingness to give up his life rather than capitulate". The guard sounded the alert, summoned the doctor, and saved him. The realisation that Stockdale was willing to sacrifice himself led to the better treatment of all US POWs. He was revived in a room full of high-ranking North Vietnamese officers, and he later wrote that prison torture as they had known it ended that night in Hanoi.

It was not until after the war that Stockdale learned that his wife, Sybil, had been making demands in Paris every week for the better treatment of POWs in Vietnam. She was on international news broadcasts and, as the wife of James Stockdale, the last thing the North Vietnamese needed was his death on their hands.

He never preached his philosophy to his fellow POWs. If his colleagues were doing okay, he knew they had their own beliefs and were applying them. He kept his Stoic philosophy to himself but, in addition to his incredible bravery, it was this philosophy which kept him going. He was released on 12 February 1973 during Operation Homecoming, and was among the first POWs repatriated following the Paris Peace Accords.


★★★ STOCKDALE ★★★
Vice Admiral
James Bond Stockdale
1923 2005
"Never give in; never give in; never, never, never, never--in nothing, great or small, large or petty--never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."
-Sir Winston Churchill

***Right:** A statue commemorating Stockdale stands at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, featuring a quote from Winston Churchill*

CLOSING DATE 30.06.22

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

£11.75
3 MONTH PRINT
34% DISCOUNT

£61.50
ANNUAL BUNDLE
50% DISCOUNT

£8.50
3 MONTH DIGITAL
34% DISCOUNT

BRITAIN'S BEST MILITARY HISTORY MAGAZINE
HISTORY of WAR
DOOLITTLE RAID
1ST US STRIKE ON TOKYO
WWI's EASTERN FRONT 1914-1918
Did the Tsar march his empire to ruin and revolution?
PLUS: Falklands War, Mk. IV Light Tank, Invasion of Britain
KOREA'S NELSON
BATTLE OF CANNAE
HELL IN THE HANOI HILTON
ORIGINS OF THE
ENGLISH ELECTRIC LIGHTNING
VETERANS SHARE THEIR STORIES
D-D
HISTORIAN'S VERDICT ON 1917
JIMA
THE KAMIKAZE HUNTER
TEST TANKS
50 PAGE SPECIAL

Visit www.magazinesdirect.com/war/a15x
or call 0330 333 1113 & quote A15X

BRITAIN'S BEST MILITARY HISTORY MAGAZINE
HISTORY of WAR
DOOLITTLE RAID
1st US STRIKE ON TOKYO
WWI's 1914-1918 EASTERN FRONT
Did the Tsar march his empire to ruin and revolution?
PLUS: Falklands War Mk. IV Light Tank Invasion of Britain
KOREA'S NELSON The genius admiral who crushed a samurai invasion
BATTLE OF CANNAE How Hannibal outwitted the Romans on their own turf
HELL IN THE HANOI HILTON Inspiring prisoner of war story of endurance and survival

REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE...

- ✪ You'll never miss an issue
- ✪ It's delivered direct to your front door
- ✪ Brilliant value – save money on the cover price

VICKERS-CARDEN-LOYD MK.IV LIGHT TANK
JAMES STOCKDALE

PRINT EDITION SUBSCRIPTION

£11.75 every 3 months

13 issues of History of War in print over 12 months and save 34%

PRINT + DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

£61.50 every 12 months

13 issues of History of War over 12 months in print and digital, and save 50%

DIGITAL EDITION SUBSCRIPTION

£8.50 every 3 months

13 issues of History of War in digital, and save 34%

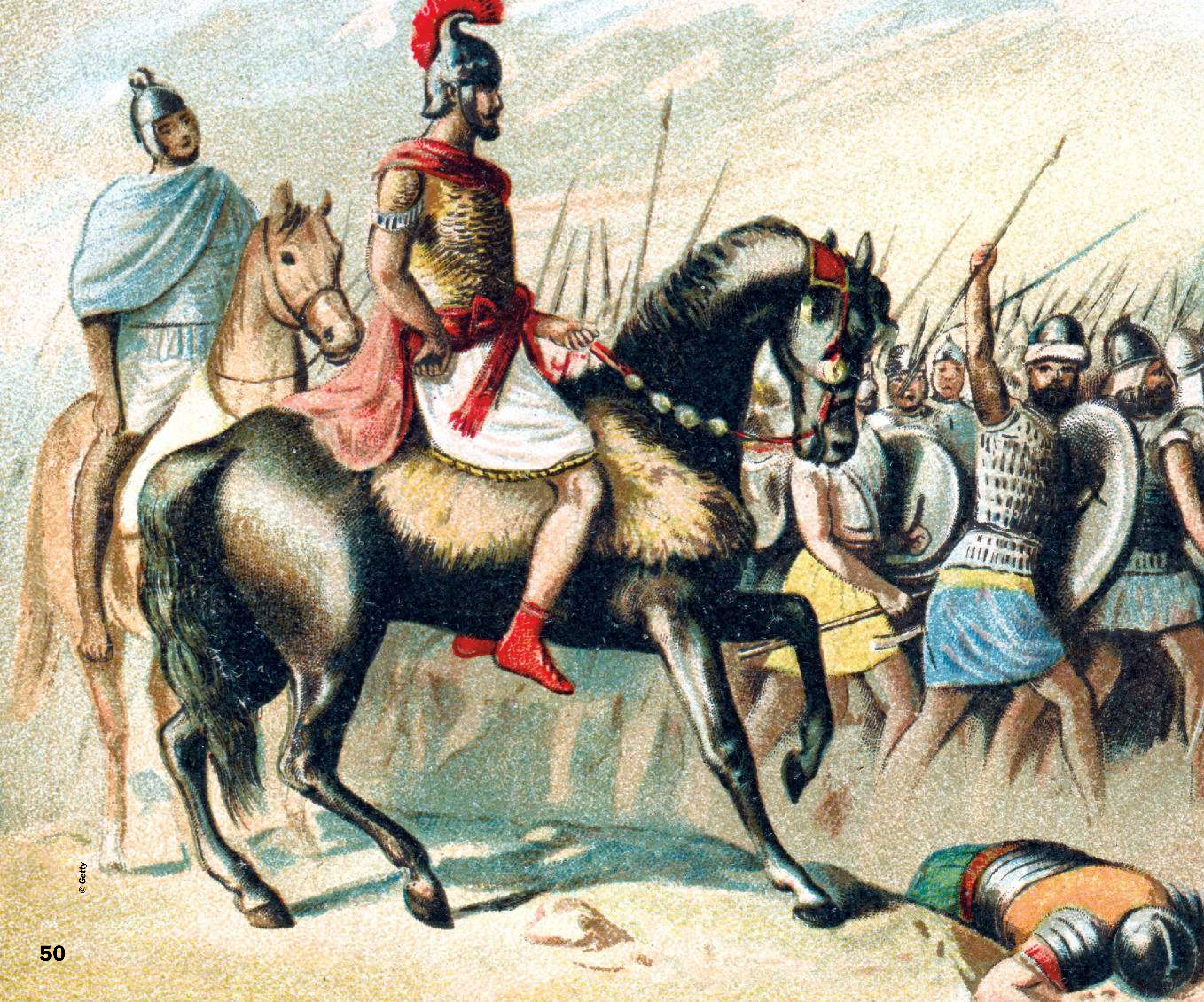
Terms and conditions: Offer closes 30th June 2022. Offer open to new UK subscribers only. Pricing is guaranteed for the first 12 months and we will notify you in advance of any price changes. Please allow up to six weeks for delivery of your first subscription issue (up to eight weeks overseas). The full subscription rate is for 12 months (13 issues) and includes postage and packaging. If the magazine ordered changes frequency per annum, we will honour the number of issues paid for, not the term of the subscription. For full terms and conditions, visit www.magazinesdirect.com/terms. For enquiries please call: +44 (0) 330 333 1113. Lines are open Monday- Friday 9am- 5pm UK Time or e-mail: help@magazinesdirect.com. Calls to 0330 numbers will be charged at no more than a national landline call, and may be included in your phone provider's call bundle.

CANNAE, APULIA 2 AUGUST 216 BCE

CANNAE

After crossing the Alps and outwitting the Romans twice, despite being hugely outnumbered, Hannibal dealt Rome a crushing blow with one of the most celebrated double-pincer movements of all time

WORDS **HARETH AL BUSTANI**



© Getty

In 216 BCE the Roman authorities carried out an appalling act of human sacrifice – burying four poor souls alive beneath the Forum. After years of martial dominance, Rome was on the brink of ruin – the dreaded Carthaginian general Hannibal had slaughtered up to 70,000 soldiers in a single afternoon, despite being totally outnumbered. How had it come to this? And why did it lead to this grim scene at the Forum?

Rome first went to war with Carthage across Sicily and its surrounding seas during the First Punic War, spanning 264 to 241 BCE. As the two greatest powers in the Mediterranean world, a violent showdown between the warlike forces had long been inevitable. Under the general Hamilcar Barca, Carthage had slaughtered 17 percent of Rome's male population, and yet, thanks to its determination, inventiveness, adaptability and vast reserves of manpower, Rome emerged victorious.

In 241 BCE, after 23 exhausting years of war, Carthage surrendered and agreed to pay the colossal amount of 3,300 talents in just a decade. But what Rome did next sowed the seeds of a far bloodier war that would bring death and destruction to the heartlands of both empires. After backing a mercenary rebellion against Carthage in 237 BCE, Rome stole both Sardinia and Corsica, violating its own treaty and adding 1,200 talents to their enemy's fine.

The Greek historian Polybius remarked that the Carthaginians "deeply resented the injustice, but were powerless to prevent it". As a trading nation Carthage was desperate to compensate for the loss of Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica, and sent Hamilcar to establish a base in Spain, which was a long-time source of vital raw materials and mercenary manpower. Hamilcar planned to carve out an empire with his nine-year-old son Hannibal and son-in-law Hasrubal. Along the way, Hamilcar is said to have made his son swear a blood-oath to remain a lifelong enemy of Rome.

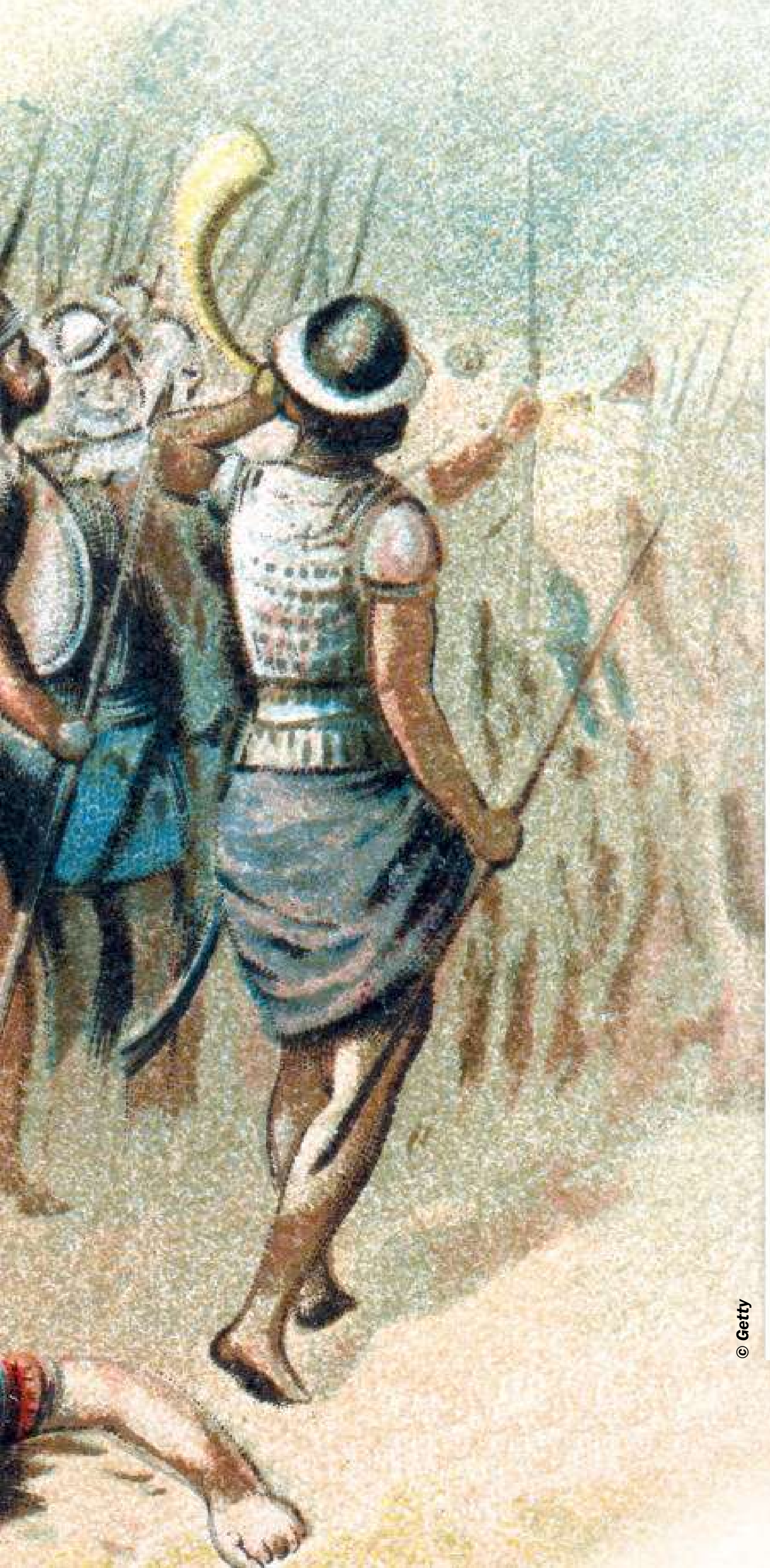
Arriving in 237 BCE Hamilcar conquered large swathes of Spain, before dying in 228 BCE. He was succeeded by the more diplomatic Hasrubal, who set up the fortress of New Carthage and built alliances with local tribes. Alarmed by Carthage's rapid expansion and on the urging of the city of Massilia, in 226 BCE Rome had Carthage sign a treaty stipulating that they would not cross the River Ebro.

In 221 BCE, Hasrubal was assassinated by disgruntled locals and replaced by the 25-year-old Hannibal. Despite his youth, Hannibal was chosen because he had already shown that he was an intelligent, daring leader. Hannibal immediately set about implementing his father's policy of military conquest and rapidly advanced to the Ebro line.

Tensions boiled over in the central Mediterranean town of Saguntum, which was split between pro-Roman and pro-Carthaginian factions. Despite Rome's insistence that Hannibal not harass the town, when a group of his supporters were executed in Saguntum he insisted that Carthaginian blood had been spilled and must be avenged. In February 218 BCE, Rome learned the town had been captured – Hannibal was on their doorstep and, it seemed, preparing for total war. Livy describes how in mid-May 218 BCE Rome sent an envoy to Carthage demanding they surrender Hannibal for violating their treaty or else face war. When the Carthaginian Senate refused, the Roman delegate Fabius "laid his hand on the fold of his toga where he had gathered it

OPPOSING FORCES

CARTHAGE	VS	ROME
LEADER Hannibal Barca		**LEADER** Gaius Varro
TROOPS 40,000		**TROOPS** 80,000
CAVALRY 10,000		**CAVALRY** 6,400

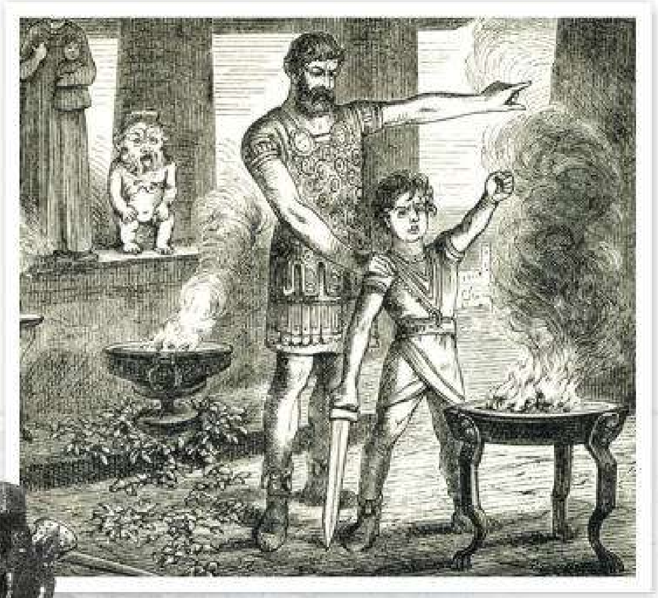


© Getty

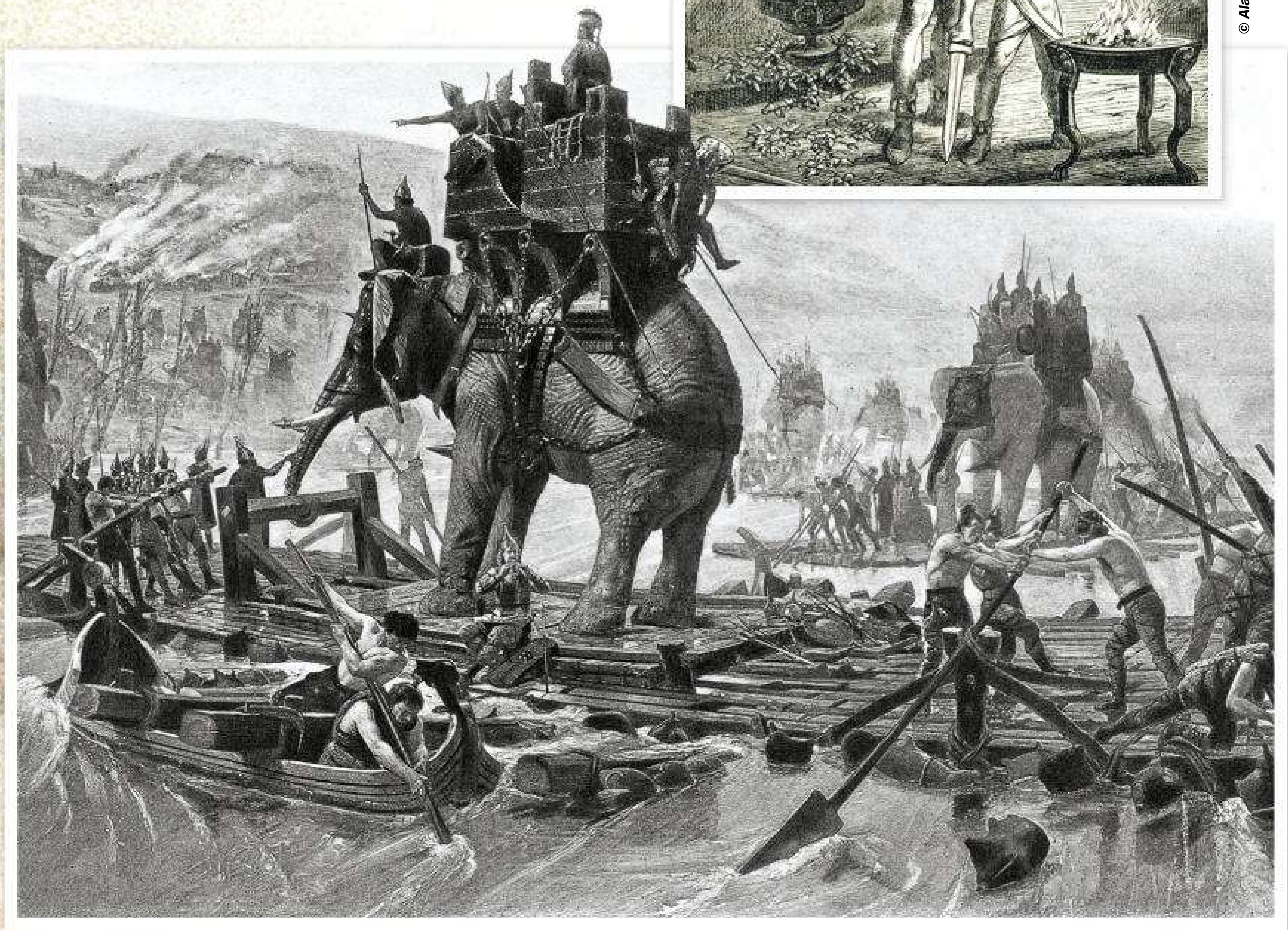
Main image: *Hannibal's victory over Rome at the Battle of Cannae was a triumph against the odds, but in the long run it couldn't prevent Carthage's defeat at the hands of its resourceful enemy*

Right: *On the way to Spain, Hamilcar had his nine-year-old son Hannibal vow to forever oppose Rome*

Below: *Committed to his life-long vow to oppose the Romans, after taking Saguntum, Hannibal crossed the River Rhone with a massive force of infantry, cavalry and elephants*



© Alamy



at his breast and 'Here', he said, 'we bring you peace and war. Take which you will.' The Carthaginians supposedly roared, 'Whichever you please – we do not care,' to which Fabius, letting his folds fall, yelled, 'We give you war.'"

Supposedly, the Carthaginians screamed in unison: "We accept it, and in the same spirit we will fight to the end." Rome sent the consul Publius Cornelius Scipio to attack Spain via Southern Gaul, while another would head to Sicily to prepare an invasion of Africa. Remembering the events of the First Punic War, Hannibal knew the only way to neutralise Rome's superior manpower would be to neutralise them in Italy itself. He left New Carthage in May 218 BCE, subduing the north of Spain, before crossing through the Pyrenees with 50,000 soldiers, 9,000 cavalry and 37 elephants – reaching the Rhone by September.

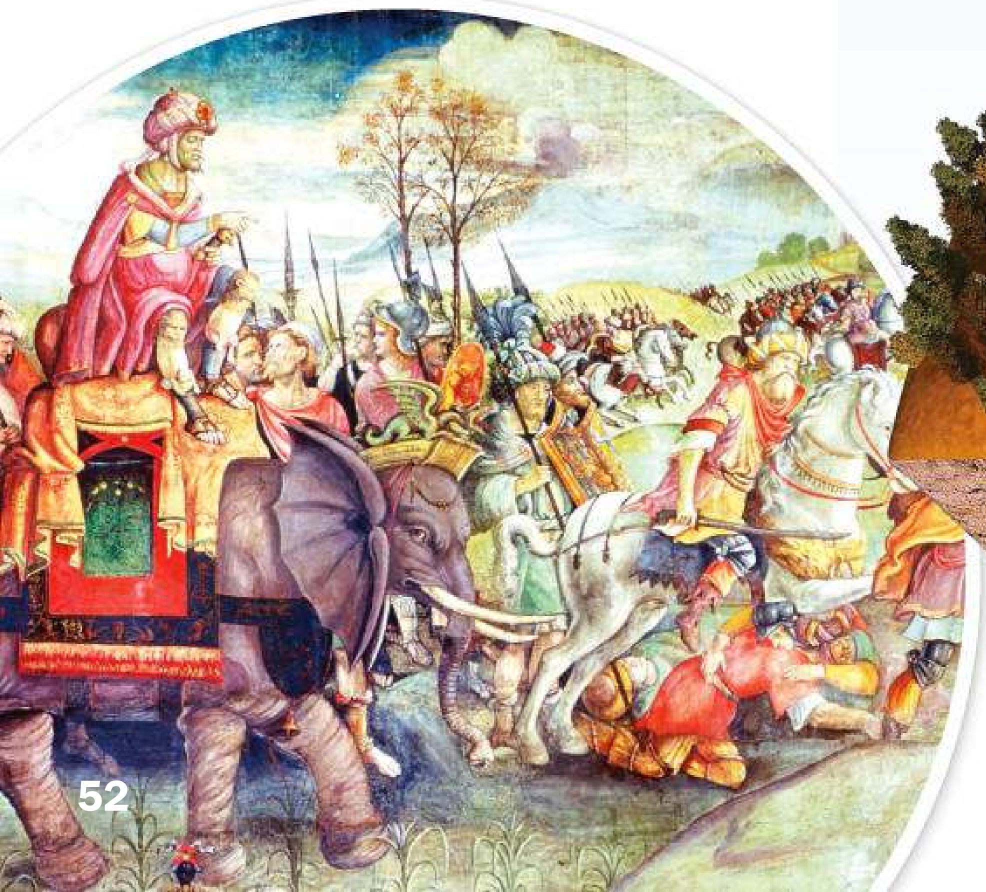
Total war

Despite being just days away, Scipio instead sent his army to Spain under his brother Gnaeus and rushed back to Italy to meet Hannibal with local forces. None, however, anticipated the Carthaginian's next daring move: famously crossing the Alps in two weeks and battling off Italian tribesmen along the way. Although he lost most of his elephants and half of his men in the process, the daring leader was able to replenish them with local Gauls.

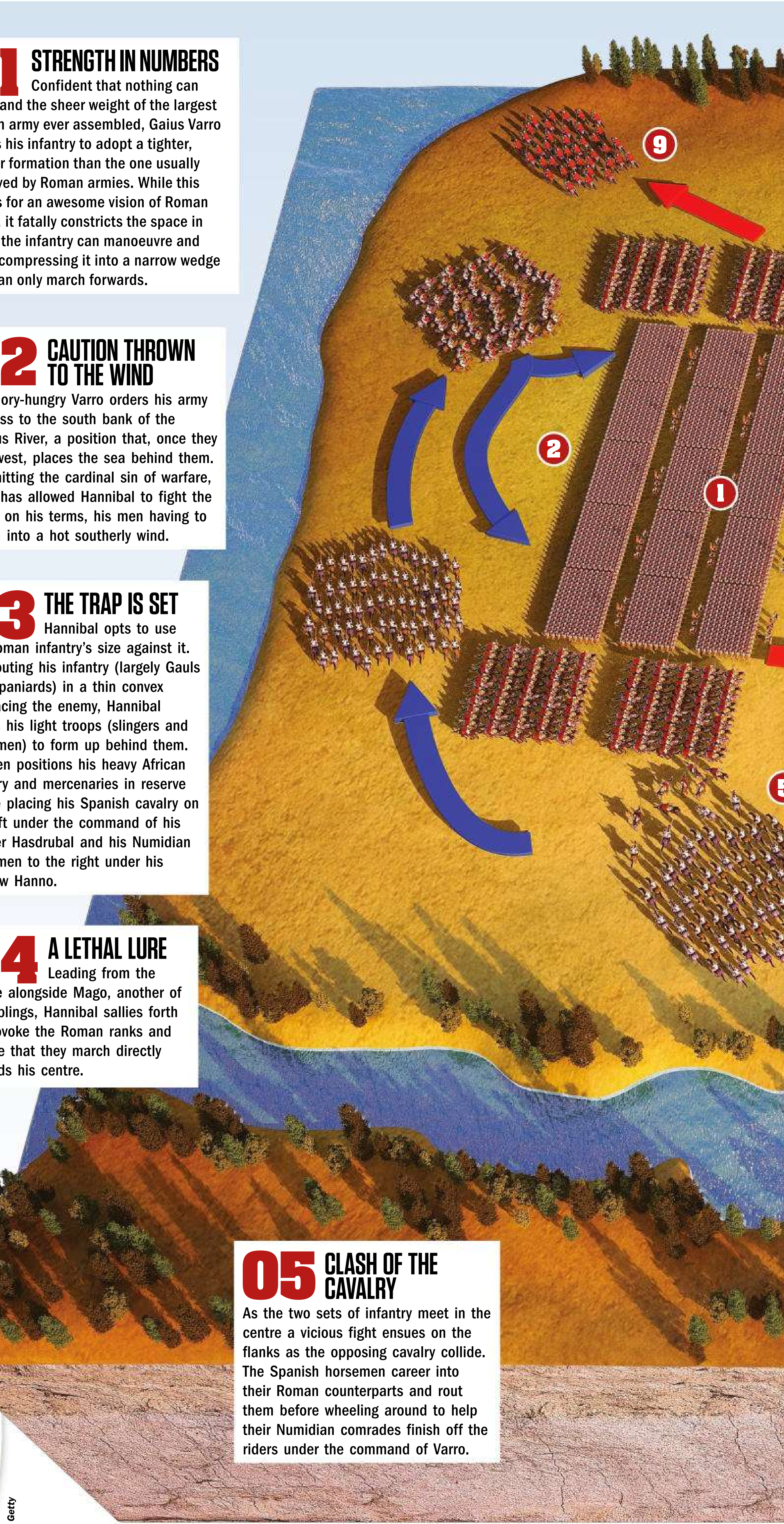
Shocked at Hannibal's blistering pace, Rome recalled its army heading to Carthage. However, when the two sides clashed at Northern Italy's River Trebbia in December, Hannibal outmanoeuvred and routed the Romans – lulling them into a false sense of security across an open plain before ambushing them with reinforcements tucked ingeniously behind the bushes and vegetation of an old nearby watercourse.

Following the battle, where Rome lost 36,000 men, Hannibal released the non-Roman prisoners in an attempt to encourage his enemy's allies to switch sides. In the spring of 217 BCE, Hannibal marched south into Etruria, ensnaring the Romans in another brilliant trap. This time he ambushed them from the hills overlooking Lake Trasimene – killing 15,000, including a consul – and capturing 10,000

Hannibal's rapid march across the alps, with 50,000 footsoldiers, 9,000 cavalry and 37 elephants, took a huge toll on his army but shocked the Romans to their core



© Getty



01 STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Confident that nothing can withstand the sheer weight of the largest Roman army ever assembled, Gaius Varro orders his infantry to adopt a tighter, deeper formation than the one usually deployed by Roman armies. While this makes for an awesome vision of Roman might, it fatally constricts the space in which the infantry can manoeuvre and fight, compressing it into a narrow wedge that can only march forwards.

02 CAUTION THROWN TO THE WIND

The glory-hungry Varro orders his army to cross to the south bank of the Aufidus River, a position that, once they face west, places the sea behind them. Committing the cardinal sin of warfare, Varro has allowed Hannibal to fight the battle on his terms, his men having to march into a hot southerly wind.

03 THE TRAP IS SET

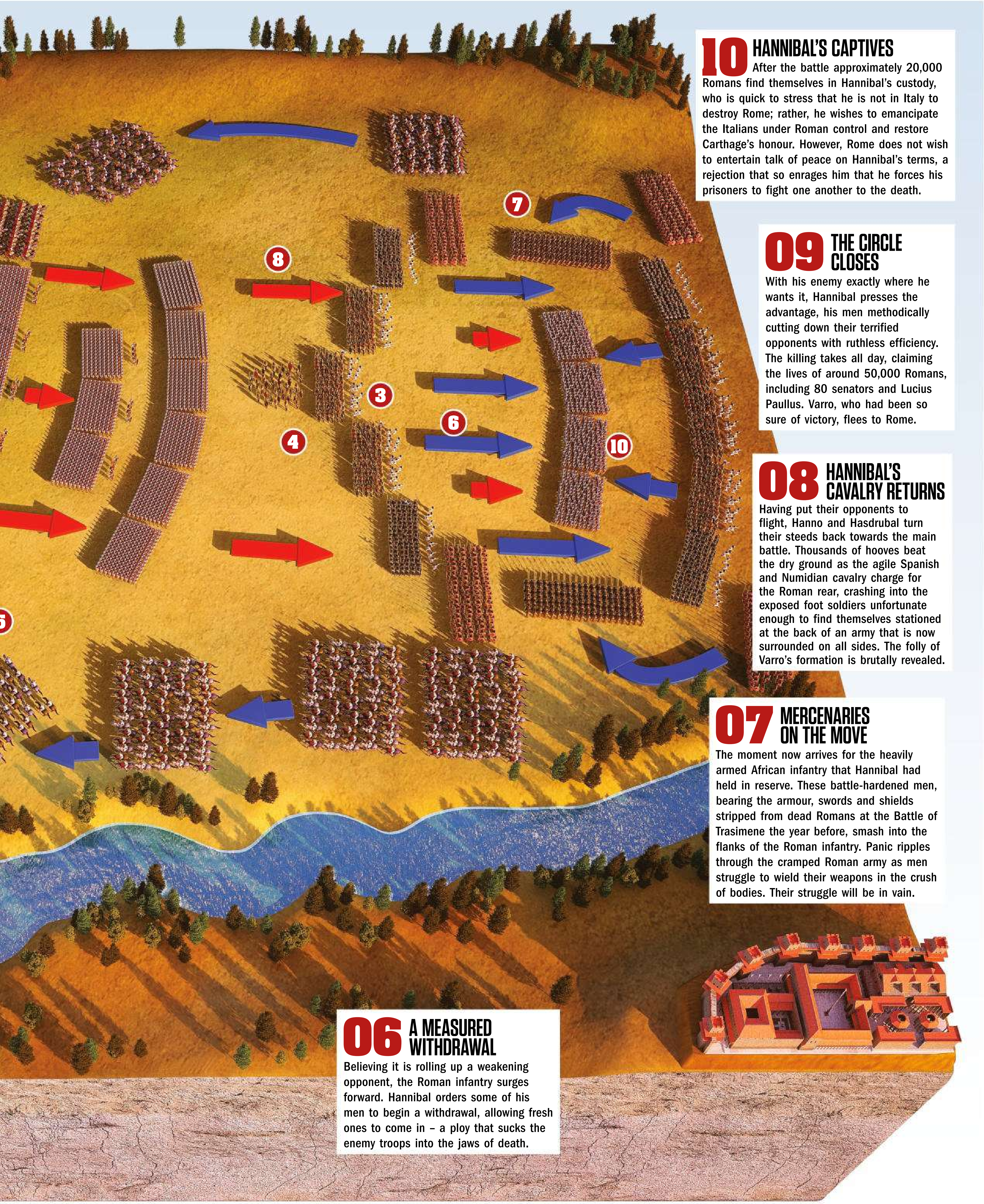
Hannibal opts to use the Roman infantry's size against it. Distributing his infantry (largely Gauls and Spaniards) in a thin convex line facing the enemy, Hannibal moves his light troops (slingers and spearmen) to form up behind them. He then positions his heavy African infantry and mercenaries in reserve before placing his Spanish cavalry on the left under the command of his brother Hasdrubal and his Numidian horsemen to the right under his nephew Hanno.

04 A LETHAL LURE

Leading from the centre alongside Mago, another of his siblings, Hannibal sallies forth to provoke the Roman ranks and ensure that they march directly towards his centre.

05 CLASH OF THE CAVALRY

As the two sets of infantry meet in the centre a vicious fight ensues on the flanks as the opposing cavalry collide. The Spanish horsemen career into their Roman counterparts and rout them before wheeling around to help their Numidian comrades finish off the riders under the command of Varro.



06 A MEASURED WITHDRAWAL

Believing it is rolling up a weakening opponent, the Roman infantry surges forward. Hannibal orders some of his men to begin a withdrawal, allowing fresh ones to come in – a ploy that sucks the enemy troops into the jaws of death.

07 MERCENARIES ON THE MOVE

The moment now arrives for the heavily armed African infantry that Hannibal had held in reserve. These battle-hardened men, bearing the armour, swords and shields stripped from dead Romans at the Battle of Trasimene the year before, smash into the flanks of the Roman infantry. Panic ripples through the cramped Roman army as men struggle to wield their weapons in the crush of bodies. Their struggle will be in vain.

08 HANNIBAL'S CAVALRY RETURNS

Having put their opponents to flight, Hanno and Hasdrubal turn their steeds back towards the main battle. Thousands of hooves beat the dry ground as the agile Spanish and Numidian cavalry charge for the Roman rear, crashing into the exposed foot soldiers unfortunate enough to find themselves stationed at the back of an army that is now surrounded on all sides. The folly of Varro's formation is brutally revealed.

09 THE CIRCLE CLOSES

With his enemy exactly where he wants it, Hannibal presses the advantage, his men methodically cutting down their terrified opponents with ruthless efficiency. The killing takes all day, claiming the lives of around 50,000 Romans, including 80 senators and Lucius Paullus. Varro, who had been so sure of victory, flees to Rome.

10 HANNIBAL'S CAPTIVES

After the battle approximately 20,000 Romans find themselves in Hannibal's custody, who is quick to stress that he is not in Italy to destroy Rome; rather, he wishes to emancipate the Italians under Roman control and restore Carthage's honour. However, Rome does not wish to entertain talk of peace on Hannibal's terms, a rejection that so enrages him that he forces his prisoners to fight one another to the death.

more. Once again, he released the non-Roman prisoners he had taken.

As Hannibal marched further south into Apulia, hoping to whittle away more allies, the desperate Rome revived the old office of dictator and handed it to Quintus Fabius Maximus. Short on manpower, experience and morale, Fabius pursued a deeply unpopular strategy of avoiding battle while keeping close enough to restrict Hannibal's movements all the way into Campania – a tactic that was later credited with saving Rome.

Fabius' presence forced Hannibal to shift westwards into the Samnite hills, through Beneventum and into Capua via Campania. Along the way, he pillaged and burned Roman towns, hoping to lure Fabius into a decisive encounter, but the Roman stood firm. Eventually, desperate to withdraw to Apulia for winter, Hannibal tricked Fabius into creating a corridor that enabled him to escape. He did so by tying bundles of wood to the horns of 2,000 cattle, setting them alight and driving them up the spur that paralleled the pass. The 4,000 Roman troops blocking the pass assumed that the distant lights were the Carthaginian army outflanking them and abandoned their position, allowing Hannibal to escape.

In 216 BCE, Fabius' dictatorship expired and the new consuls decided to abandon his strategy in favour of facing Hannibal in pitched battle. With bravado in the air, they were given eight legions of 40,000 men, joined by 40,000 allies. Sensing a golden opportunity to deal Rome a critical blow, Hannibal set up a strategic position

> **"'THERE IS ONE THING, GISGO, THAT YOU HAVE NOT NOTICED... IN ALL THAT GREAT NUMBER OF MEN OPPOSITE THERE IS NOT ONE WHOSE NAME IS GISGO!'"**

in Cannae, where he patiently waited for the consuls to arrive.

The Romans arrived just after sunrise on 2 August and the consuls carefully selected their field: 1,600 cavalrymen were positioned on the right, led by Paullus, and 4,800 on the left under Varro. This time they were determined Hannibal wouldn't be able to outwit them. Hemmed in on the left by hills and a river to the right, the Romans hoped to close off any possibility of a Carthaginian cavalry outflanking manoeuvre – enabling them to use their numerical advantage to destroy the enemy in the centre.

The Romans also deployed their infantry much closer than usual: one metre apart, lined 3,000 metres diagonally across the plain, with the most experienced troops in the centre. Hannibal, meanwhile, headed to the field with 40,000 infantry and 10,000 cavalry, led by a cohort of slingers and African heavy infantry. Up until now, Hannibal had always allowed his expendable Celtic allies to lead battles, preserving his most experienced for a decisive fight such as this. However, attrition had left him with just 10,000 Africans and 6,000 Spaniards, with the rest composed of Celts.

When his general Gisgo gawked at how outnumbered they were, Hannibal replied: "There is one thing, Gisgo, that you have not noticed… In all that great number of men opposite there is not one whose name is Gisgo!" This prompted howls of laughter and lifted spirits. Hannibal had concentrated all his heavy Spanish and Celtic cavalry on the left wing facing Paullus, instructing them to clear the Roman cavalry from the wing. Meanwhile on the right, the Numidian light horsemen would keep the Romans distracted.

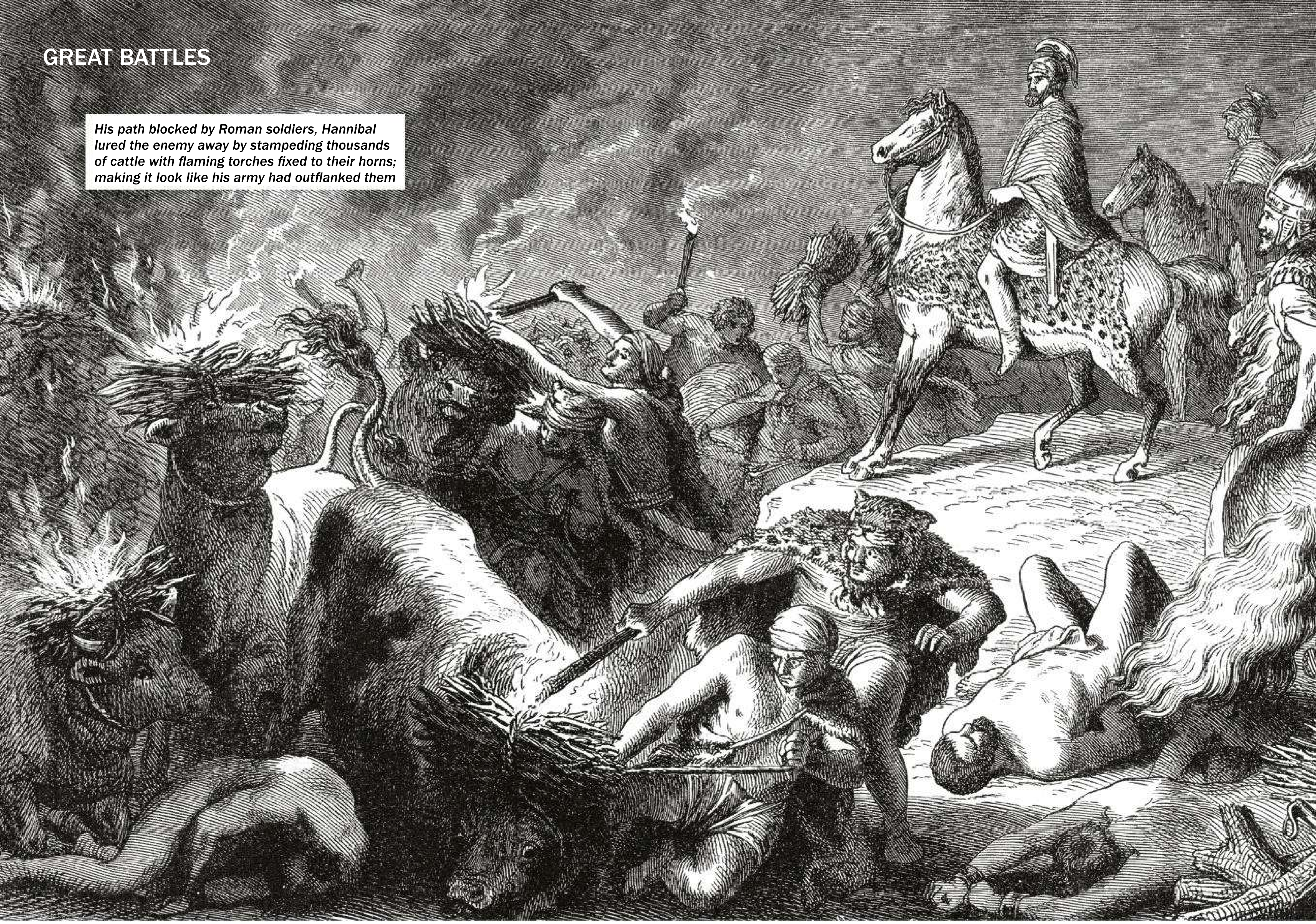
The Spanish and Celtic infantry were stretched into a convex crescent, thinning out nearer to its points in a formation designed to slow the Roman heavy infantry and buy time for Hannibal's heavy African infantry.

A battle like no other

As the two sides clashed, hand-to-hand combat broke out all across the line, the wide crescent forcing the Romans to stretch out their own, exhausting themselves as they slowly pushed back the Celts and Spanish.

Hannibal scored a tactical masterstroke, luring the Romans into a seemingly 'unambushable' open plain by Lake Trasimene, only to ambush them from behind some nearby vegetation

© Getty



His path blocked by Roman soldiers, Hannibal lured the enemy away by stampeding thousands of cattle with flaming torches fixed to their horns; making it look like his army had outflanked them

The idiosyncratic styles, with Celts slashing and Spanish stabbing, made it hard for the Romans to engage in an organised manner. As the Carthaginian line slowly caved, the Romans pressed on, Paullus roaring encouragement, the legionaries pushing themselves in denser formation and collapsing the Carthaginians into a concave shape as the Celtic core buckled.

The Romans surged forward, dust thick in the air and victory at hand, pouring into the hole in the centre. But they completely neglected the African heavy infantry that had until now remained uncommitted on the projecting ends of what had now been transformed into a reverse crescent. Lowering their pikes, these heavy soldiers formed a phalanx on either flank of the Roman advance and attacked, grinding the Romans to a halt and slamming them into a great mass of metal and flesh. The Romans were now trapped in a vice with African phalanxes on either flank, engaged on the front, and cavalry smashing into their rear.

Try as they may to fight their way free, they were trapped. Soon they were crushed so tightly together the men couldn't even raise their swords. All they could do was await a violent death. Livy writes that some soldiers grew so desperate they buried their heads underground, choking themselves to death rather than endure the awful crush. Hannibal's men wiped out the entire army, killing between 50,000 and 70,000 at a rate of 100 deaths per minute.

"SOON THEY WERE CRUSHED SO TIGHTLY TOGETHER, THE MEN COULDN'T EVEN RAISE THEIR SWORDS. ALL THEY COULD DO WAS AWAIT A VIOLENT DEATH"

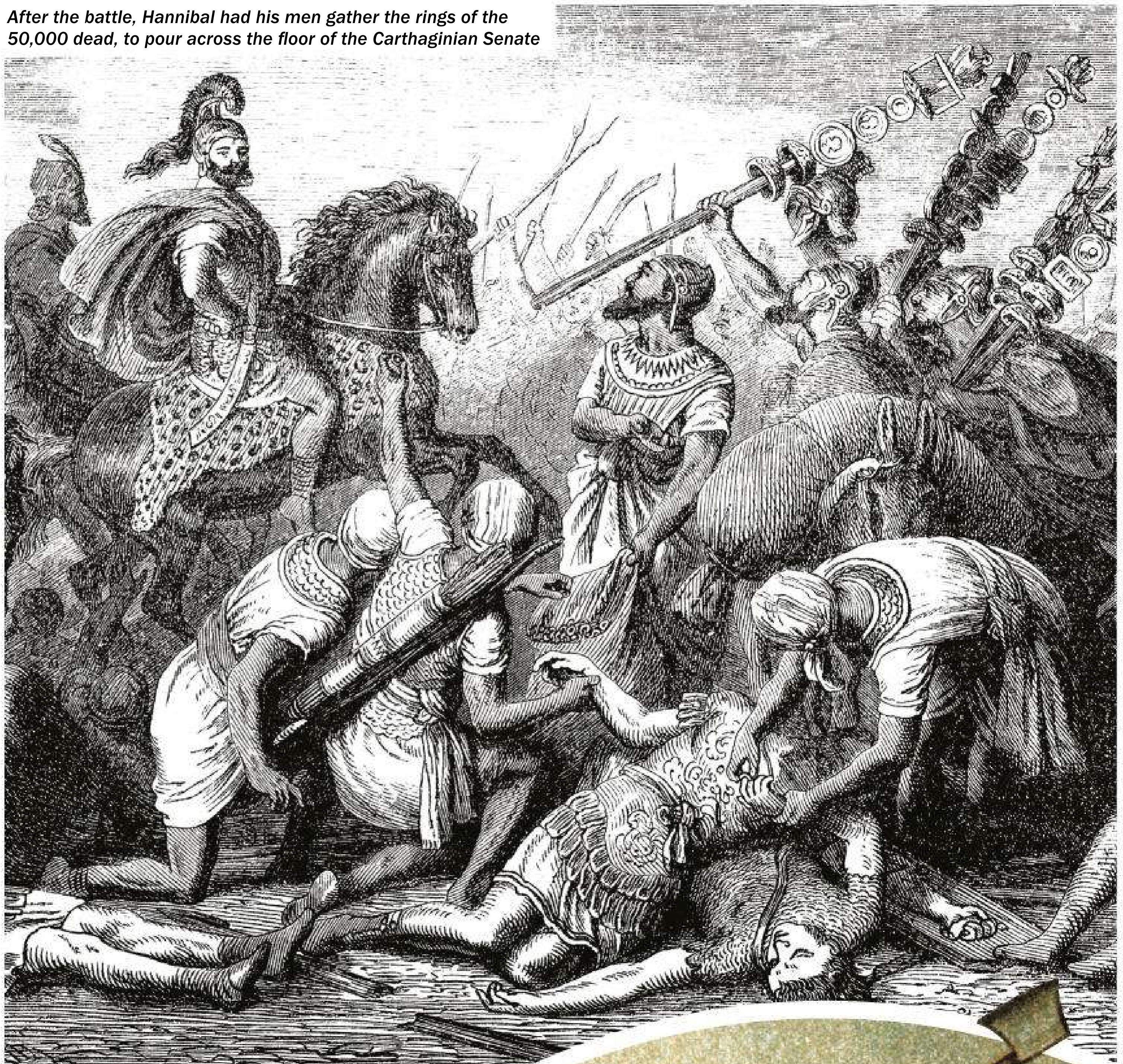
In the aftermath one consul, a former consul, half the Roman officers and 80 senators lay dead. Hannibal collected the rich men's gold rings in baskets to be poured onto the floor of the Carthaginian senate as a symbol of the victory, before once again releasing non-Roman prisoners. Rome was devastated – the invincible Hannibal had dealt them a defeat quite unlike any other, and in Italy no less. The Romans were so shocked they carried out one of the few acts of human sacrifice in their history, burying four Gallic and Greek victims alive beneath the Forum, an act that Livy called "a practice most repulsive to Roman feelings".

Yet because he lacked siege equipment Hannibal couldn't land a killer blow by attacking Rome itself, and instead continued to incite revolt among the allies. Even more spectacularly, while any other power would have simply collapsed, Rome persevered. It raised new legions by releasing debtors, criminals and even slaves, amassing 25 legions by 211 BCE.

After turning the tide in Italy, Scipio launched an attack on Carthage's North African base in 204 BCE, forcing the recall of Hannibal from Italy. In fact, the Roman defeat at the Battle of Cannae proved to be a watershed moment in the Second Punic War, and for Roman military expansion, precisely because the Romans lost so many soldiers and were almost left penniless. "The basic bronze coin… was reduced in weight over the course of the war, from almost 300 grams to just over 50," writes historian Mary Beard, adding that in 214 BCE individual citizens were asked to pay directly to man the fleet. She explains: "Almost any other ancient state in that position would have been forced to surrender. Nothing underscores better the importance of Rome's enormous reserves of citizen and allied manpower than the single fact that it continued to fight the war. To judge from Hannibal's actions after Cannae, perhaps he saw this point too."

Beard concludes that Hannibal may not have resisted marching on Rome through lack of will or through fear, but rather he concluded that Rome's allies and sheer manpower would enable it to endure. This is the reason Hannibal released so many non-Roman prisoners of war. This was successful but not in large enough numbers to seal a final victory.

After the battle, Hannibal had his men gather the rings of the 50,000 dead, to pour across the floor of the Carthaginian Senate



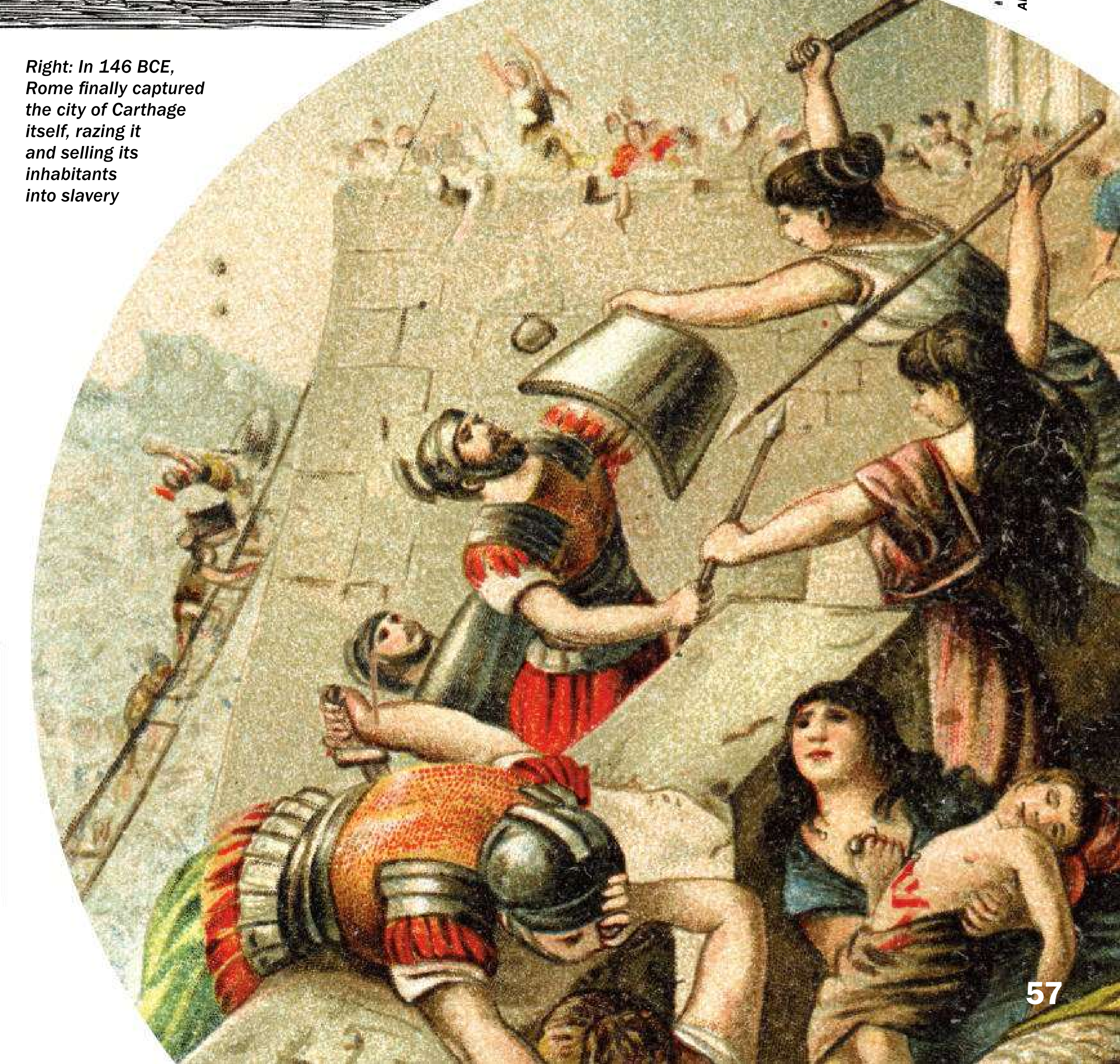
All images © Getty

Carthage surrendered all territory except the capital. Its military would need Rome's consent to wage war, it had to pay 10,000 talents, and its empire was destroyed. When Carthage offered to pay off its remaining debt in 191 BCE, Rome refused because it wanted its rival indebted for another 40 years. After supporting Carthage's rival, Masiniassa of Numidia, Rome eventually pressured Carthage into war once more.

This time, after emerging victorious, the Romans razed the city, selling its inhabitants into slavery and wiping it off the map for good. Stories later emerged of Rome sowing salt into the earth so that no crop could ever grow again. Rome alone was master of the Mediterranean.

Hannibal, meanwhile, died in exile, supposedly remarking: "Let us relieve the Romans from the anxiety they have so long experienced, since they think it tries their patience too much to wait for an old man's death."

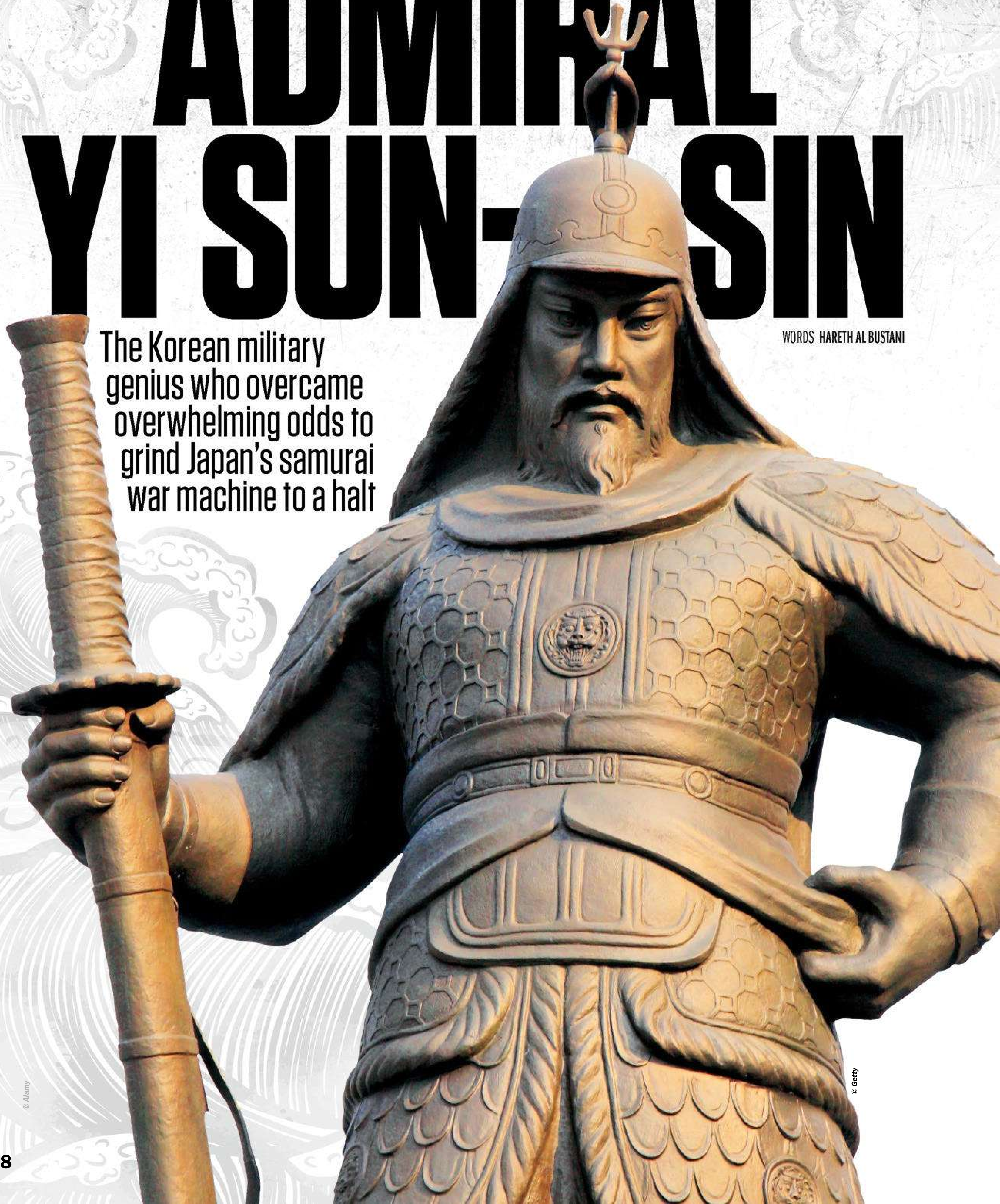
Right: In 146 BCE, Rome finally captured the city of Carthage itself, razing it and selling its inhabitants into slavery



FURTHER READING

- Christopher S. Mackay – ***Ancient Rome: A Military and Political History***
- Mary Beard – ***SQPR: A History of Ancient Rome***
- Mark Healy – ***Cannae 216BC: Hannibal Smashes Rome's Army***

ADMIRAL YI SUN-SIN

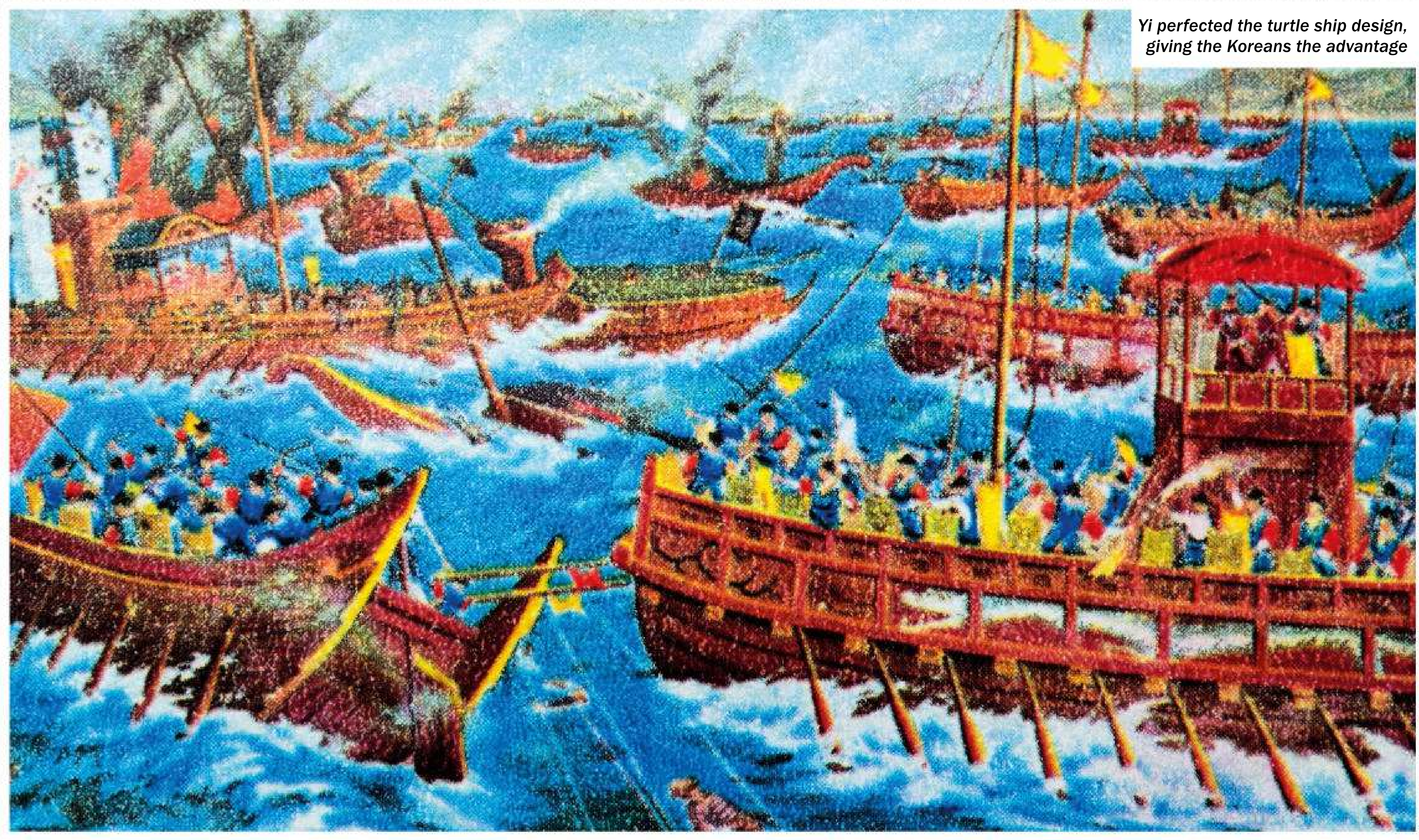


The Korean military genius who overcame overwhelming odds to grind Japan's samurai war machine to a halt

WORDS **HARETH AL BUSTANI**

© Alamy

© Getty



Yi perfected the turtle ship design, giving the Koreans the advantage

© Alamy

Born in Seoul in April 1545, Korean lord Yi Sun-sin wasn't your typical aristocrat. While most well-heeled youth in Joseon-era Korea shared a Confucian disdain for martial arts, Yi hurled himself into the traditional pursuits of archery, horse riding and swordsmanship. As his wealthy peers searched for ways to evade military service, Yi served with pride. In an exam in 1576, he was thrown from his horse so violently he broke a leg. Undeterred, he fashioned a splint from a willow branch and dragged himself back onto his horse to complete the test.

After graduating, he was made a navy commander on the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula. However, he soon learned a bitter lesson about the petty intrigues that plagued the Joseon military. When Yi dared to speak out against institutional corruption, his furious superiors stripped him of his title and forced him to take command of the fortress of Konwon, a dangerous position on the northern frontiers where they hoped he might be killed. The fortress was attacked soon after by a Jurchen raiding army, but Yi set an ingenious trap that led to the capture and execution of the enemy chief. However, just as his star began to rise, his father suddenly died, requiring him to withdraw from service to mourn.

When Yi re-enlisted, he once again found himself on the receiving end of an invasion from Manchuria. During this assault he took an arrow to the leg but quietly ripped it out and pressed on, lest any of his juniors lose morale. This brave display only further embittered his senior rivals, who had him arrested for 'desertion'. When Yi refused to confess, even under torture, he was stripped of his rank and imprisoned. It took a direct intervention from King Seonjo to free him, under the condition that he would serve as a common soldier – he accepted with such humility that the king pardoned him.

Following this, Seonjo took a direct interest in Yi's career, but his increasingly envious enemies continued to intervene, having him rotated across various posts until Yi landed at Cholla Left Naval Station at the seaport of Yosu. Ordinarily, this job was to keep pirates at bay. However, there was a more pressing threat from the most unlikely of places. Having completed the decades-long unification of Japan, fuelled by success and limitless ambition, Japan's warlord Hideyoshi set his sights on the impossible: he would conquer China. But first he needed to cross the Strait of Tsushima and establish a landing point on the Korean Peninsula. With typical haughty bravado, he wrote to the Korean king demanding he help save his country's "soul" and "help clear my way". However, as a virtual vassal of the pre-eminent Ming China, siding with Hideyoshi was simply not an option for Korea.

> **"SAMURAI HAD ALWAYS TAKEN GREAT PRIDE IN WRENCHING THE HEADS OFF THEIR VICTIMS AND COUNTING THEM. HOWEVER, IN KOREA THEY MASSACRED SO MANY THEY HAD TO SWAP TO CUTTING OFF THEIR EARS"**

Enraged, Hideyoshi launched an almighty assault, sending 160,000 warriors under the leadership of the Christian lord Konishi Yukinaga and the fearless Buddhist Kato Kiyomasa. The Koreans were utterly overwhelmed by the Japanese combination of arquebusiers, archers and swordsmen, who stormed all the way from Seoul to Pyongyang in a matter of months. It was a war unlike any Korea had ever seen, with the Japanese killing and destroying on an unprecedented scale.

Samurai had always taken great pride in wrenching the heads off their victims and counting them. However, in Korea they massacred so many they had to swap to cutting off their enemies' ears instead, 38,000 of which were later buried in Kyoto. Ninety percent of Koreans were left homeless and agriculture was decimated, triggering nationwide famines. Amid societal collapse, Korea's hopes fell at the feet of a single man, the ever-industrious Admiral Yi.

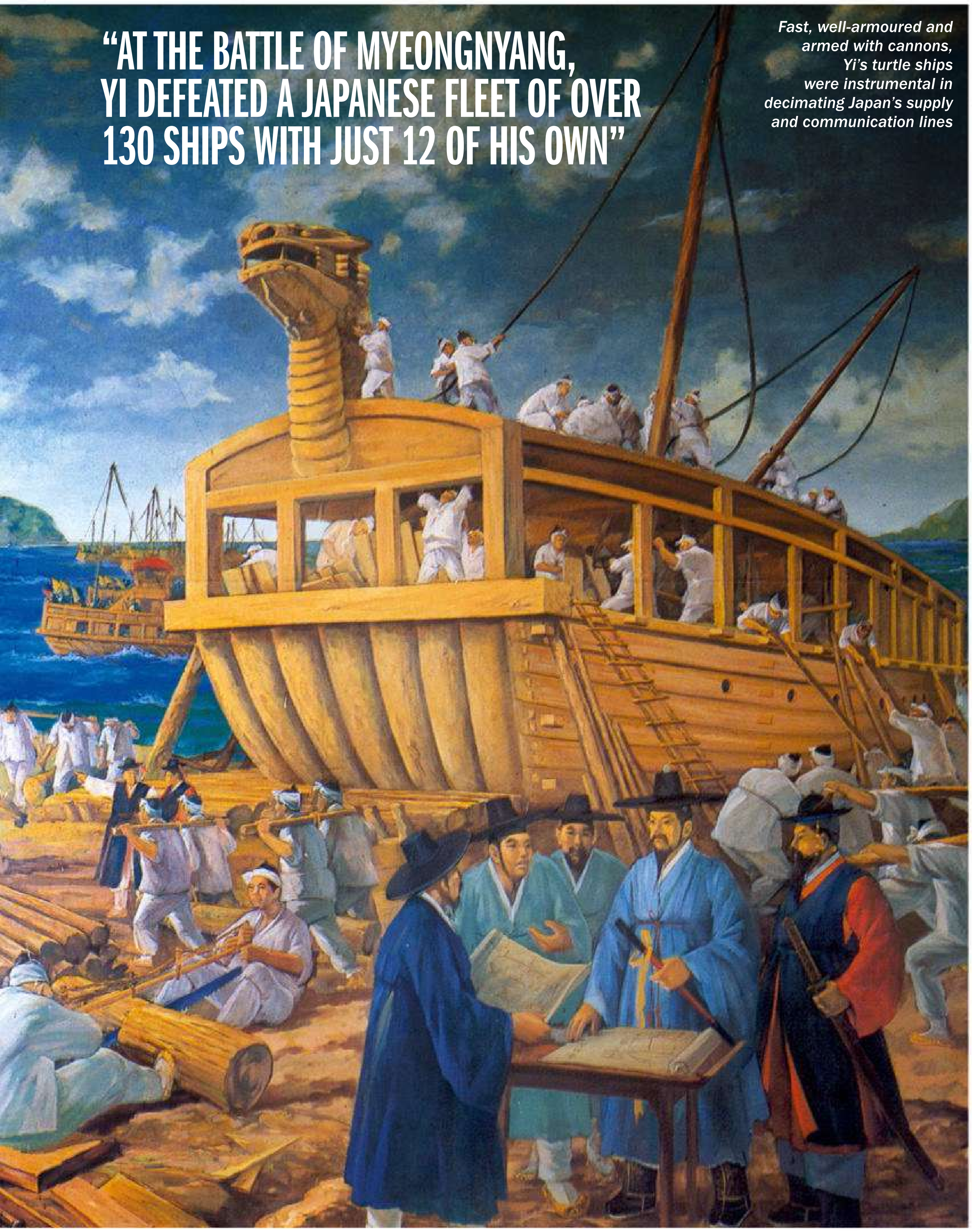
Fortunately, Yi had already been hard at work. With a rather unsophisticated naval tradition, he recognised that the Japanese instead loaded huge numbers of men onto broad-beamed ships, from which they rained arrows and bullets upon the enemy until finally sending in the swordsmen to board and finish them off. The mightiest Japanese ships, the Atakebune, were clad in iron, which made them sluggish and best-suited for coastal operations. Korea had already begun experimenting with a cannon-armed Geobukseon, or 'turtle ship', but by the time of Yi's appointment the Korean navy was woefully incapable of taking on its Japanese counterpart. Yi wasted no time in closing the gap. Drawing on local boat yards, within months he developed a ship advanced enough to seize control of the peninsula's several sea approaches, severing Japan's supply and communication lines. With exceptional protection, mounted cannons and high speed, they gave Yi enough versatility to bring the fight to Japan.

The only problem was that he had less than a dozen of them to work with. If he stood any chance of making a dent in Japan's armada, he would have to rely on another asset: his own genius. A master strategist, he anticipated that the Japanese would respond to his cannon-mounted ships by producing their own. Always a step ahead, he devised a tactic called 'holding onto each other's tails', where his ships would bring their guns to bear on the same targets as they passed them in turn, unleashing an apocalyptic stream of continuous cannon fire. Another of his innovations, 'drawing the fish into the net', saw his ships feign a retreat to draw the entire enemy fleet into their line of attack. When he found himself unable to set battles on his own terms, his ships spewed out sulphur and saltpetre fumes, blinding the Japanese sailors so he could get closer. To prepare for these close-quarter encounters he hid his oarsmen and gun crews in thick, iron-bound wooden deck planking, rendered virtually impenetrable. He also used the curved uppermost deck as roof protection and trained his crew to ram their spears through slots in the decking, hidden behind thatch and smoke.

Using these innovations, Yi made an immediate impact, swooping around to the southeastern coast to rescue Admiral Won Gyun's decimated fleet. Remarkably, rather than gratitude, the jealous Won Gyun responded with what Yi described as "an evil heart full of knavish tricks". While Won schemed at court, Yi pressed on, defeating Japan in a series of increasingly decisive naval victories. In one incident, mirroring his fall from the horse, despite being wounded, Yi kept it hidden from his men, lest they be demoralised.

At the Battle of Hansando in 1592, Yi's nephew recounted how his uncle feigned a retreat, drawing the Japanese from the shallow narrows where they held an advantage and "out to the open sea". As the Japanese gave chase, Yi suddenly waved his flag, roaring for a counterattack. With that, his ships swooped back around in a 'crane wing' formation, launching a shocking barrage of cannon balls and burning arrows and destroying 73 ships. Yi's victory was so

"AT THE BATTLE OF MYEONGNYANG, YI DEFEATED A JAPANESE FLEET OF OVER 130 SHIPS WITH JUST 12 OF HIS OWN"



Fast, well-armoured and armed with cannons, Yi's turtle ships were instrumental in decimating Japan's supply and communication lines

THE KOREAN NELSON

After his death, Yi was named Lord of Loyalty and Chivalry and celebrated for his continuous display of "the three essentials of the warrior: humility, discernment and courage". Undefeated in battle, his remarkable naval accomplishments changed the face of East Asia forever. He has since been immortalised as a rare symbol of integrity and sacrifice at a time of widespread corruption, scheming and selfishness, typical of Joseon-era politics.

Yi has also been revered outside of the Korean Peninsula. Following his stunning, historic victory against the Russian Baltic Fleet in Tsushima in 1905, the Japanese Admiral Togo Heihachiro remarked: "You may wish to compare me with Lord Nelson, but do not compare me with Korea's Admiral Yi Sun-sin. Next to him, I am only a petty officer."

Meanwhile, in 1921 British Admiral George Alexander Ballard did compare Yi to Lord Nelson, remarking that while "it is always difficult for Englishmen to admit that Nelson ever had an equal in his profession", Yi was the only one in the running. "His whole career might be summarised by Yi Sun-sin's remark that, although he had no lessons from history to serve as a guide, he waged war on the sea as it should be waged if it is to produce definite results, and [he] ended by making the supreme sacrifice of a defender of his country."

Admiral Yi is celebrated in both Koreas to this day for his humility, brilliance and courage

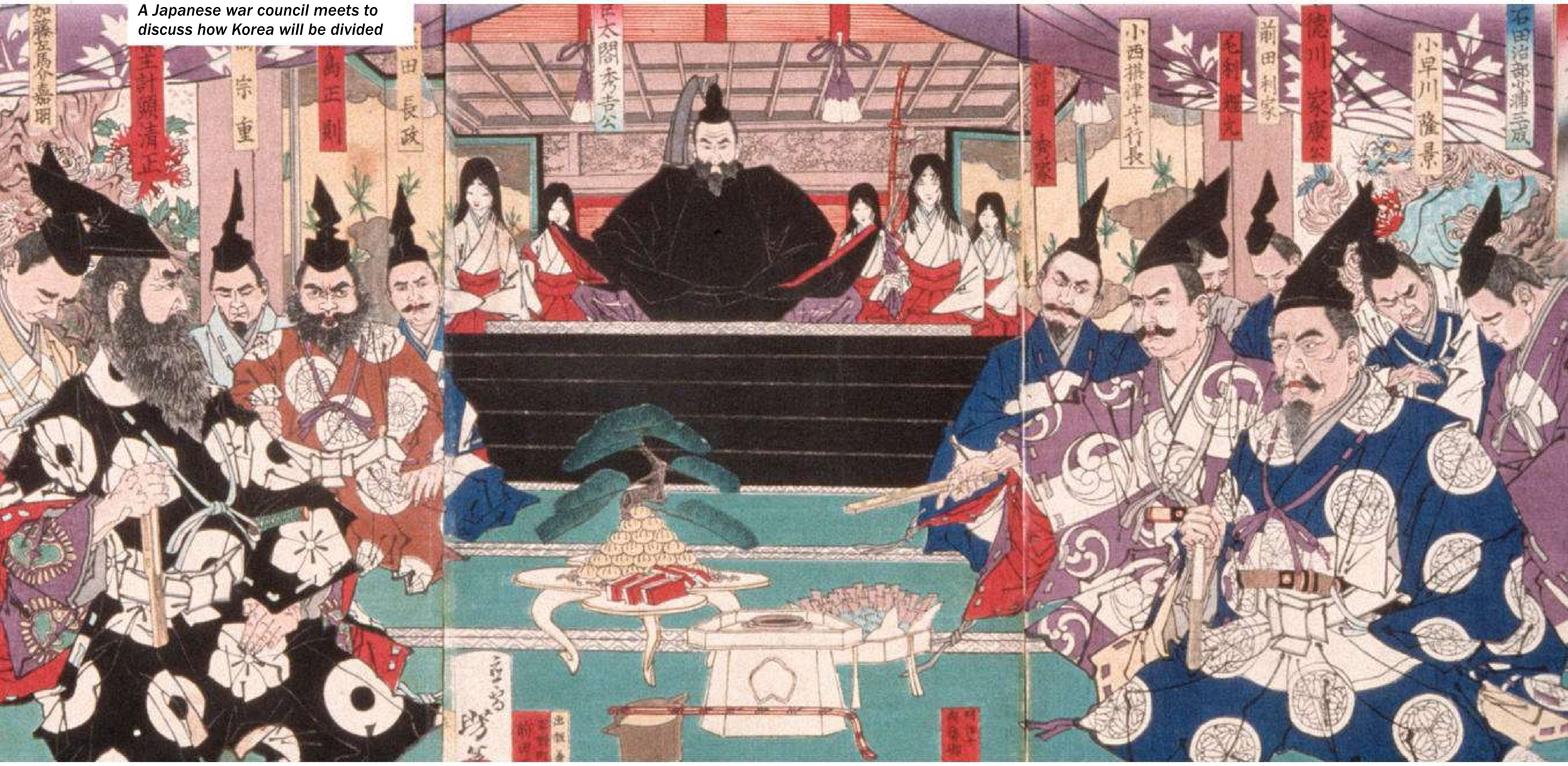
All images © Alamy

decisive it utterly decimated the Japanese supply and communication lines. With their ground forces facing increasing resistance from Korean guerrilla soldiers and a belated Chinese counterattack, the Japanese had been driven into a stalemate.

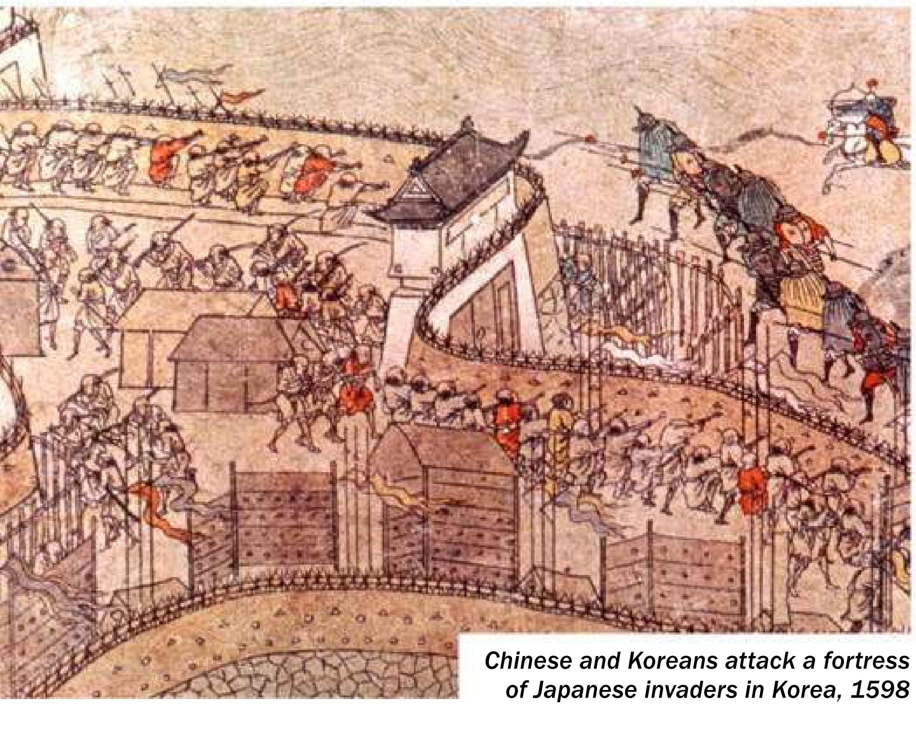
Despite being promoted to supreme naval commander, Yi was frustrated with the Chinese-led peace negotiations with the Japanese, who he didn't trust. When told by a Chinese general to withdraw from a Japanese camp, he yelled: "I am a subject of Korea, and for justice's sake I cannot live with these robbers under the same heaven." This outspoken manner allowed the bitter Won Gyun to orchestrate yet another plot against him. In a callous test of his 'loyalty', Yi was ordered to take part in a mission that was doomed to fail. Unwilling to risk his men's lives for a political game, Yi was hauled back to Seoul in a cage and forced once again to serve as an ordinary soldier while Won Gyun stole away with his position.

After a brief lull in hostilities, Hideyoshi returned in 1597 with another 140,000 men aboard 1,000 ships. Won Gyun was annihilated in humiliating fashion – a shameful farce punctuated by his desperate attempt to flee – before being captured and decapitated. Realising how much they desperately needed Yi's brilliance, the court appealed to him to save the day, against all odds. With just 12 ships and 120 sailors left, the king considered abolishing the navy, but Yi declared: "I still have 12 ships! As long as I live, [our] enemies will never look down on us." Yi launched another steady stream of ingenious attacks, undermining the Japanese war machine and even losing one of his own sons in the process. At the Battle of Myeongnyang, his dozen vessels defeated a Japanese fleet of over 130 ships.

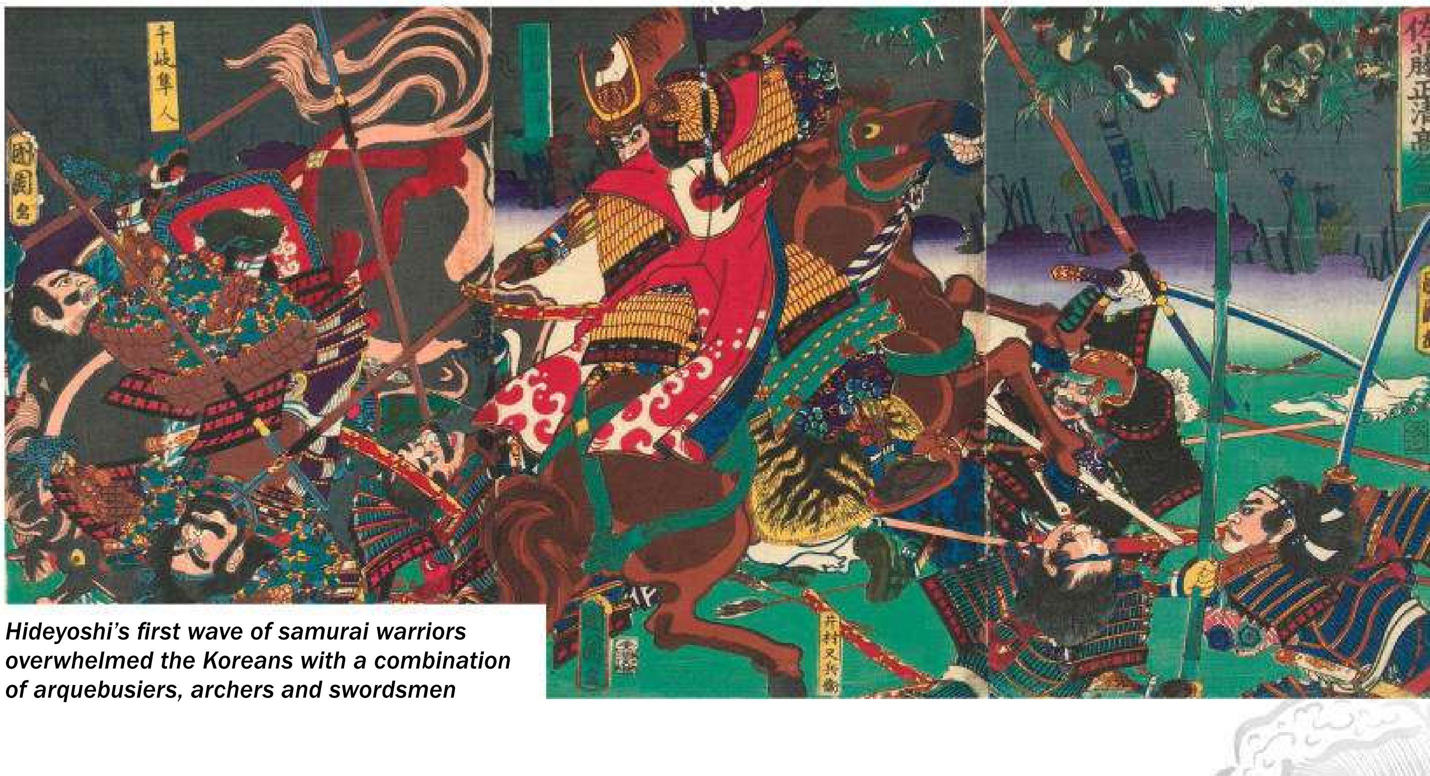
In late 1598, after Hideyoshi's sudden death, Japan frantically began withdrawing its soldiers. Sensing an opportunity to deal a critical blow, Yi convinced the reluctant Ming Admiral Chen Lin to help him attack 500 Japanese ships as they attempted to withdraw by sea. In the ensuing encounter at Noryang, Yi and Chen Lin destroyed hundreds of enemy ships. However, during the battle's climax, Yi was struck by a stray bullet. With his last breaths, he urged his eldest son Hoe: "The battle is at its height; do not announce my death." His body was hidden in his cabin and his cousin banged the war drums and waved the flags, ensuring that the men wouldn't mourn until the day was done. Yi's death, ironically, would be among the last of the war. Through his efforts, Japan's conquest was brought to a close, and the samurai prepared to turn their swords on one another once again.


石田治部少輔三成
小早川隆景
徳川家康公
前田利家
毛利輝元
小西摂津守行長
太閤秀吉公
田長政
正則
宗重
加藤左馬介嘉明

A Japanese war council meets to discuss how Korea will be divided



Chinese and Koreans attack a fortress of Japanese invaders in Korea, 1598

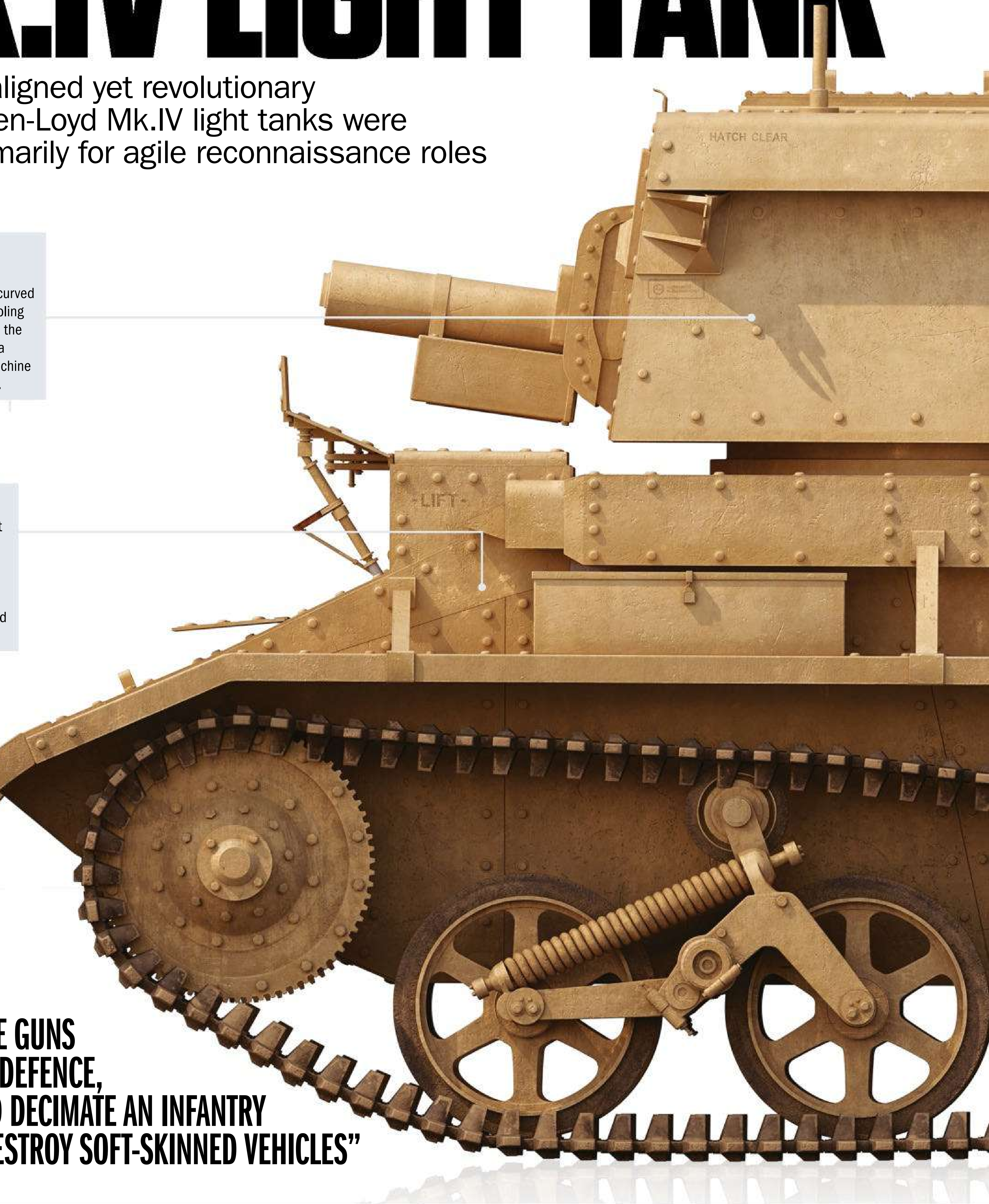


Hideyoshi's first wave of samurai warriors overwhelmed the Koreans with a combination of arquebusiers, archers and swordsmen

VICKERS-CARDEN-LOYD MK.IV LIGHT TANK

The often-maligned yet revolutionary Vickers-Carden-Loyd Mk.IV light tanks were designed primarily for agile reconnaissance roles

WORDS **CRAIG MOORE**



TURRET DESIGN
Both sides of the turret have ventilation slits covered by a curved armoured cowling to allow cooling air inside in hot weather when the roof hatch is closed. There is a metal tray underneath the machine gun to catch spent cartridges.

STEERING METHOD
The driver steers using the left and right tiller levers to stop one of the tracks temporarily. When both are pulled backwards the tank stops. When both are pushed forward the tank moves forward.

"THEIR MACHINE GUNS WERE FOR SELF-DEFENCE, BUT THEY COULD DECIMATE AN INFANTRY COLUMN AND DESTROY SOFT-SKINNED VEHICLES"

On 14 November 1932, Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd merged with Carden-Loyd and started to manufacture a range of light tanks that today are very misunderstood. These tanks were not built to fight other tanks. Armed only with machine guns, as part of a mechanised army they were designed to be fast reconnaissance tracked scout vehicles or used as mobile bullet-proof machine gun nests.

Some Vickers-Carden-Loyd light tanks were built with 40mm guns that could fire armour-piercing rounds, but they were rejected by the British Army as not complying with the current requirements of a reconnaissance unit. Patrols were required to advance until they made contact with the enemy and then report back with intelligence as to the size and location of that force. They were not expected to engage in a protracted battle. These light tanks' machine guns were for self-defence, but they could decimate an infantry column and destroy soft-skinned vehicles if necessary.

The lack of understanding as to the role of the light tank has resulted in many negative comments about the supposed stupidity and tactical naivety of sending them to fight in France and Belgium in 1939 against German Panzer divisions.

VICKERS-CARDEN-LOYD MK.IV LIGHT TANK

COMMISSIONED:	1935
ORIGIN:	ENGLAND
LENGTH:	3.40M (11FT 2 IN)
MAX. SPEED:	58 KM/H (36 MPH)
RANGE:	258 KM (160 MILES)
ENGINE:	MEADOWS TYPE E.S.T.E. 29.4 HP PETROL ENGINE
CREW:	2
MAX. ARMOUR	12MM
PRIMARY WEAPON:	.303 INCH (7.7 MM) VICKERS WATER-COOLED MACHINE GUN

© Mechanisation Experimental Establishment

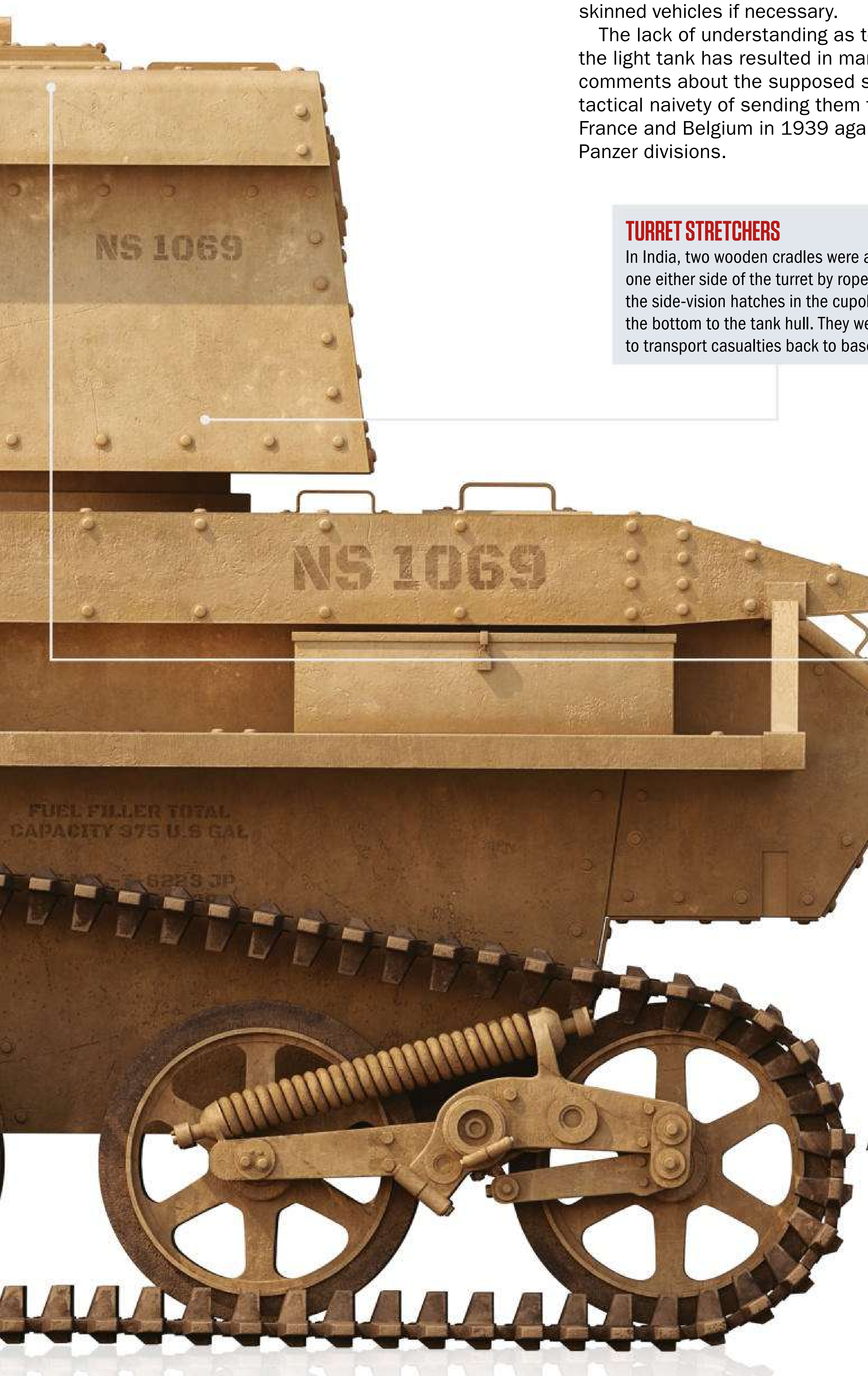

NS 1069
NS 1069
FUEL FILLER TOTAL CAPACITY 375 U.S GAL

Illustration: Nicholas Forder

TURRET STRETCHERS

In India, two wooden cradles were attached, one either side of the turret by rope through the side-vision hatches in the cupola and at the bottom to the tank hull. They were used to transport casualties back to base.

TANK COMMANDER

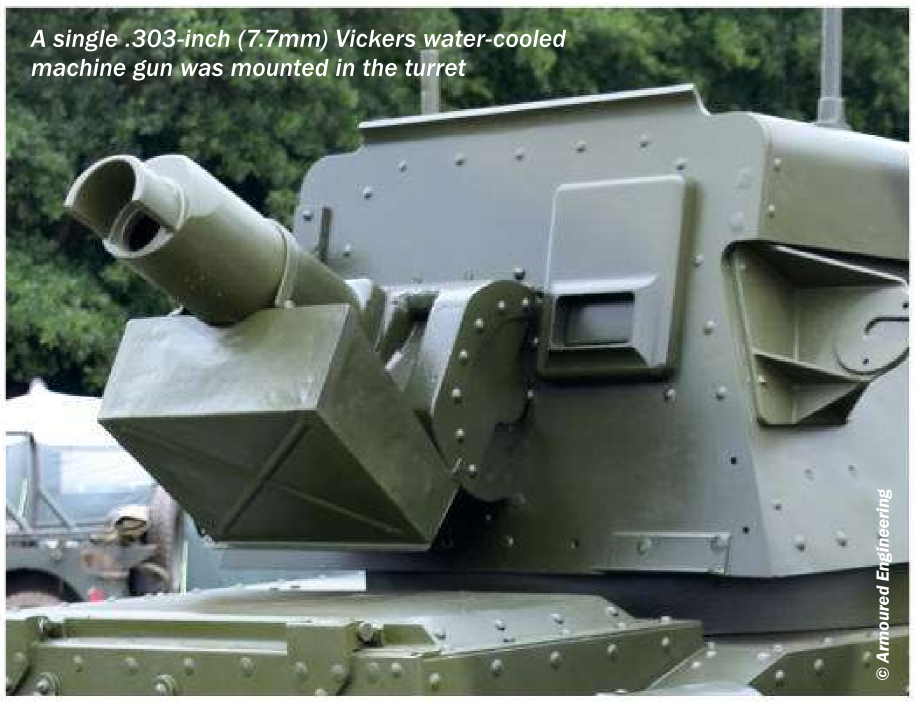
Having only one man in the turret was problematic. He was overworked because he had to look for targets, load and fire the machine gun, communicate with other tanks and supporting infantry, look for new threats and assist the driver in working out the best route.

Below: *The relatively small tanks were not intended to engage enemy armour or take part in prolonged battles*

© Alamy

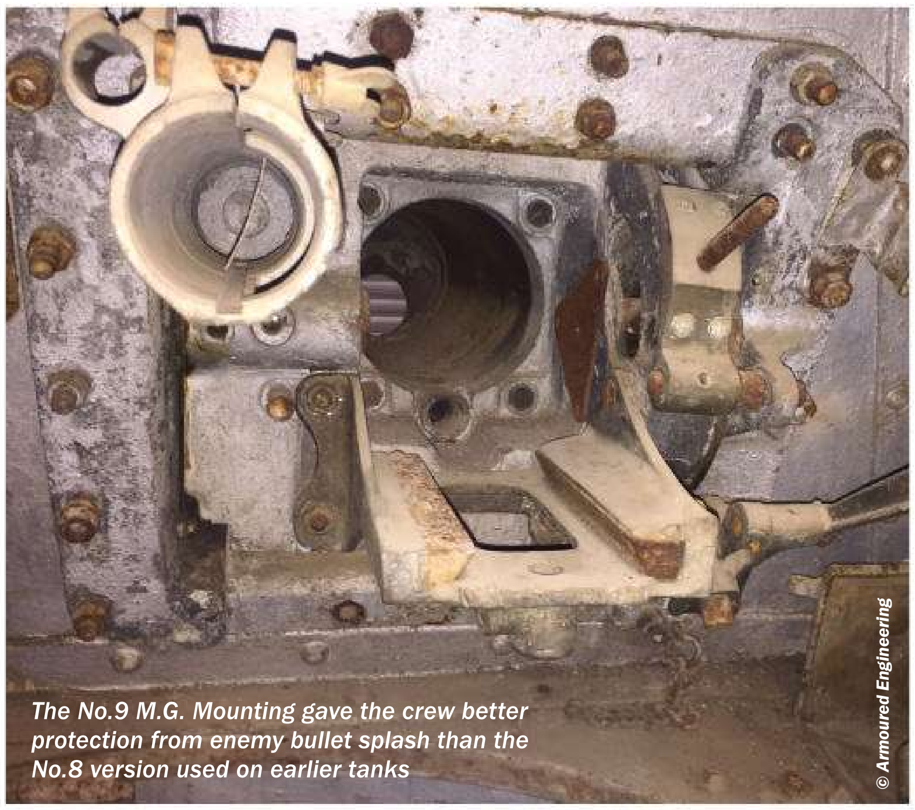
ARMAMENT

The turret was fitted with a single .303-inch (7.7mm) Vickers water-cooled machine gun, based on the successful Maxim gun of the late 19th century. Vickers purchased the Maxim Company and improved the design of the gun. It had a rate of fire of 450 to 500 rounds a minute with an effective range of 2,187 yards (2km). An improved machine gun mounting, the No.9 M.G. Mounting, was used compared to the earlier tanks. This had better crew protection from enemy bullet splash.



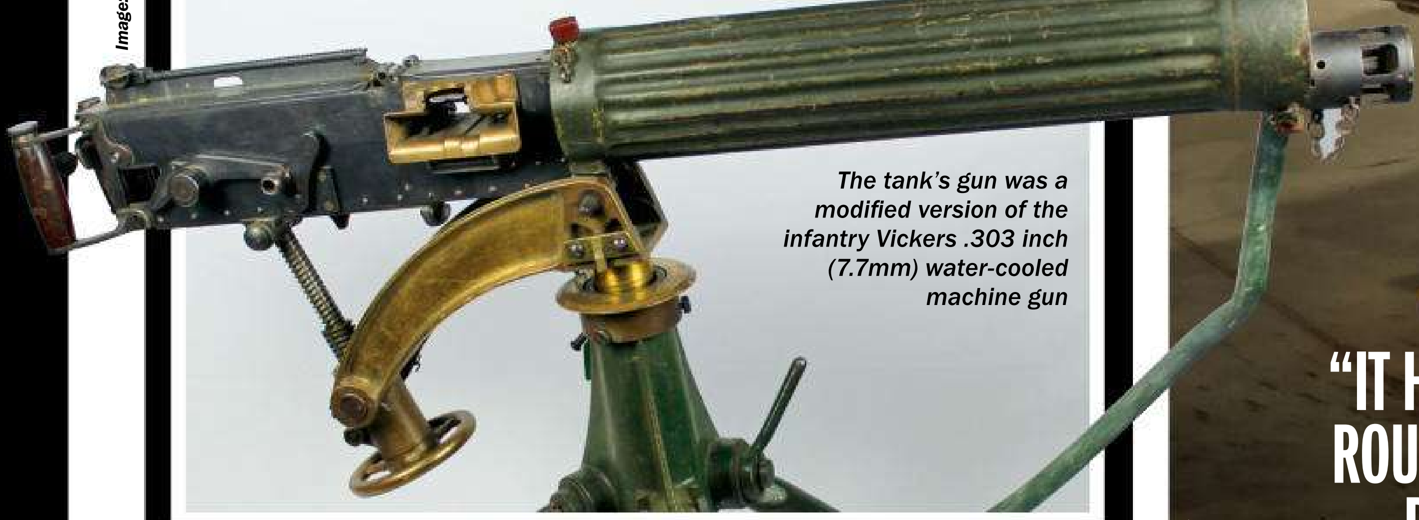
A single .303-inch (7.7mm) Vickers water-cooled machine gun was mounted in the turret

© Armoured Engineering



The No.9 M.G. Mounting gave the crew better protection from enemy bullet splash than the No.8 version used on earlier tanks

© Armoured Engineering

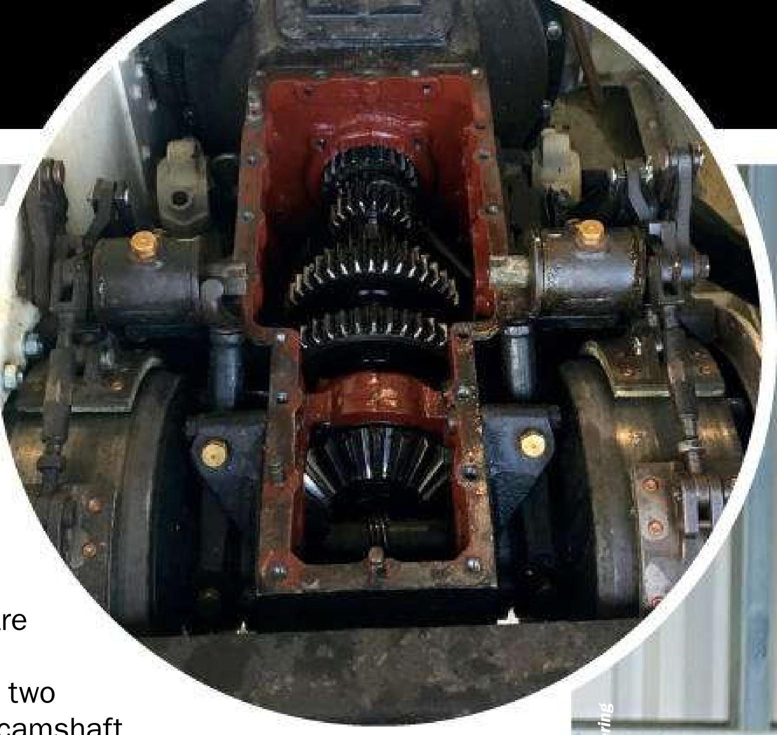


The tank's gun was a modified version of the infantry Vickers .303 inch (7.7mm) water-cooled machine gun

Image: Wiki / PD / York Museums Trust

ENGINE

A Meadows Type E.S.T.E. 29.4hp petrol engine powered the Vickers-Carden-Loyd Mk.IV light tank. It was a straight-six type, having all six cylinders arranged behind one another on the same centre line. The front end of the crankshaft was fitted with two chain wheels to drive the camshaft, magneto, water pump, dynamo and fan pulley. Engine power is transferred to the drive sprocket via the Change Speed Gear (clash-type gear box) through a single-plate dry clutch that had five forward and one reverse gear.



***Above:** The Meadows Type E.S.T.E. petrol engine was on the right of the driver behind a bulkhead*

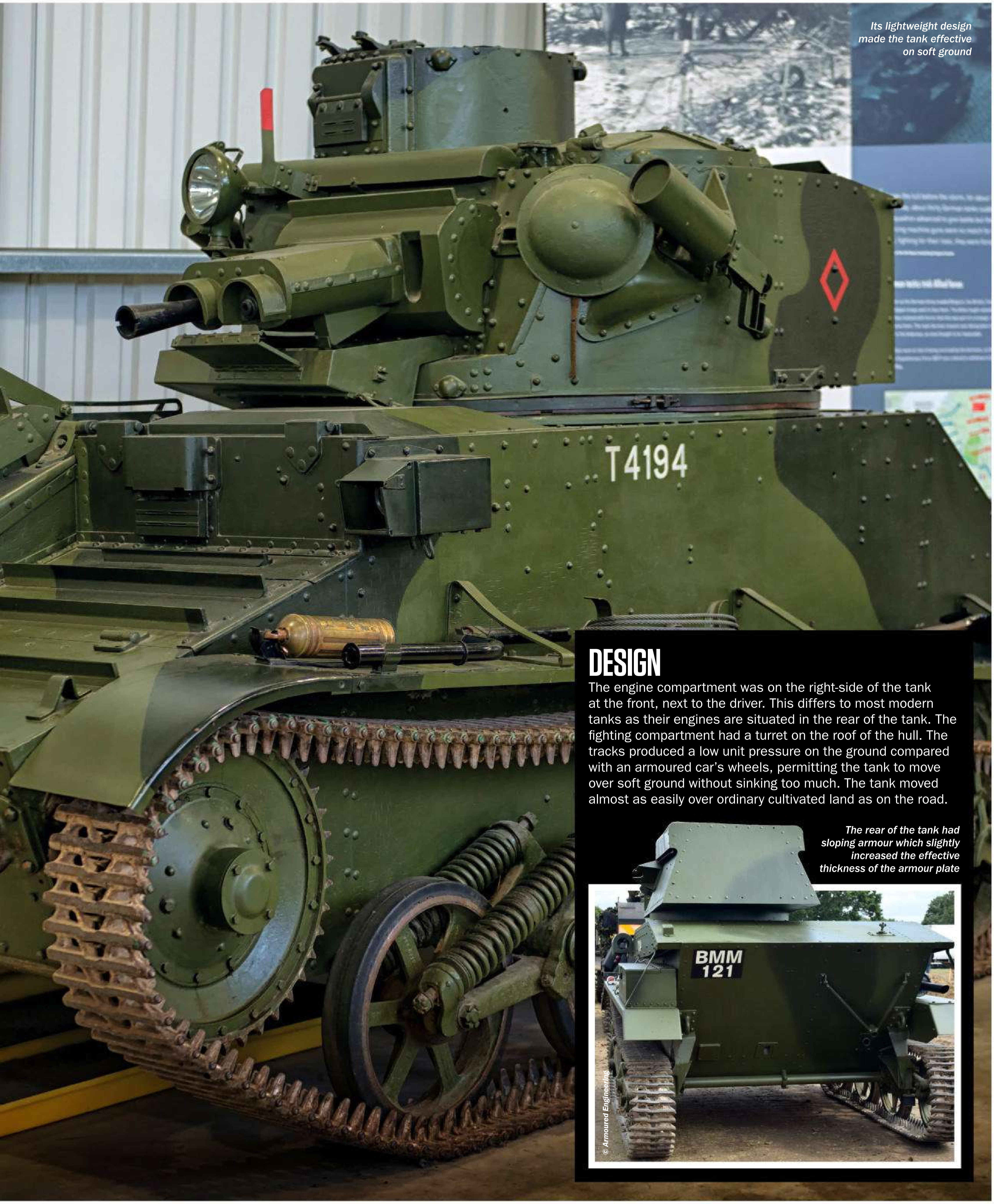
© Armoured Engineering

The fuel tank was located at the rear of the tank behind the turret

© Armoured Engineering

© Alamy

> "IT HAD A RATE OF FIRE OF 450 TO 500 ROUNDS A MINUTE WITH AN EFFECTIVE RANGE OF 2,187 YARDS (2KM)"



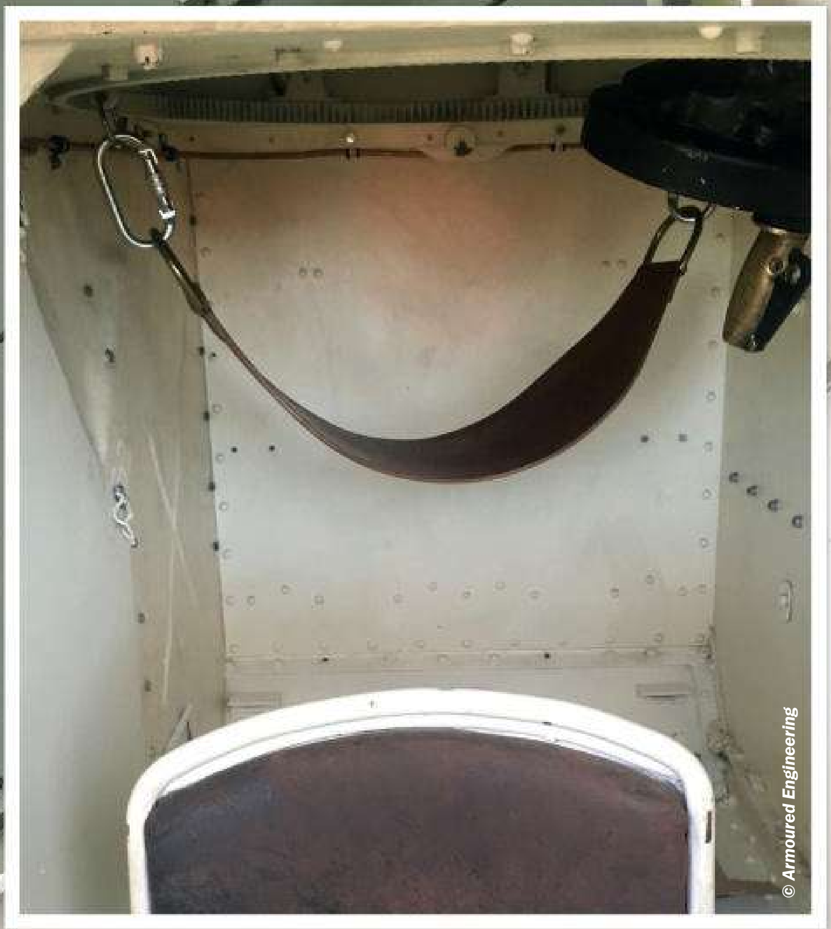
Its lightweight design made the tank effective on soft ground

DESIGN

The engine compartment was on the right-side of the tank at the front, next to the driver. This differs to most modern tanks as their engines are situated in the rear of the tank. The fighting compartment had a turret on the roof of the hull. The tracks produced a low unit pressure on the ground compared with an armoured car's wheels, permitting the tank to move over soft ground without sinking too much. The tank moved almost as easily over ordinary cultivated land as on the road.

The rear of the tank had sloping armour which slightly increased the effective thickness of the armour plate

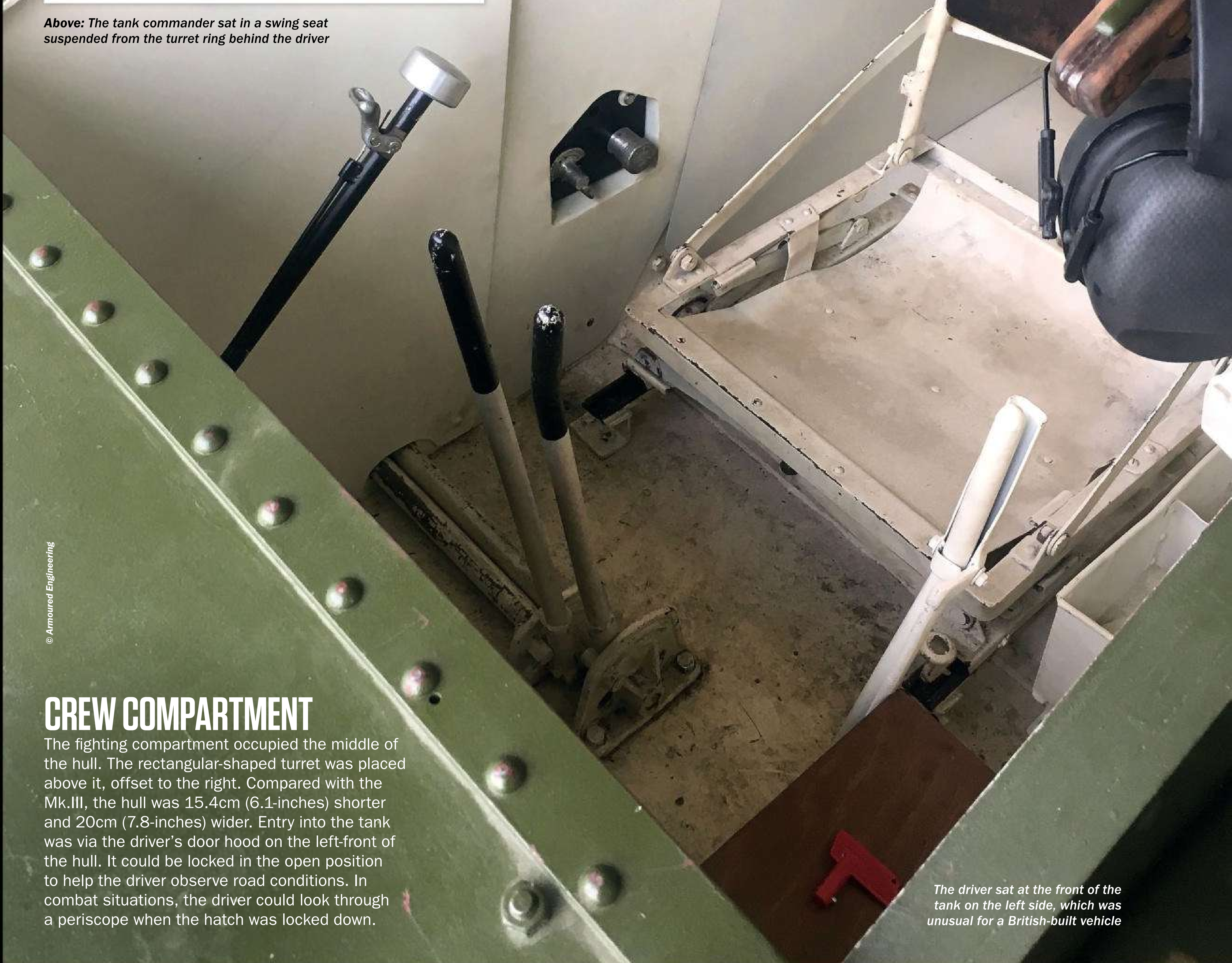
© Armoured Engineering



Above: *The tank commander sat in a swing seat suspended from the turret ring behind the driver*

© Armoured Engineering

"IN COMBAT SITUATIONS, THE DRIVER COULD LOOK THROUGH A PERISCOPE WHEN THE HATCH WAS LOCKED DOWN"

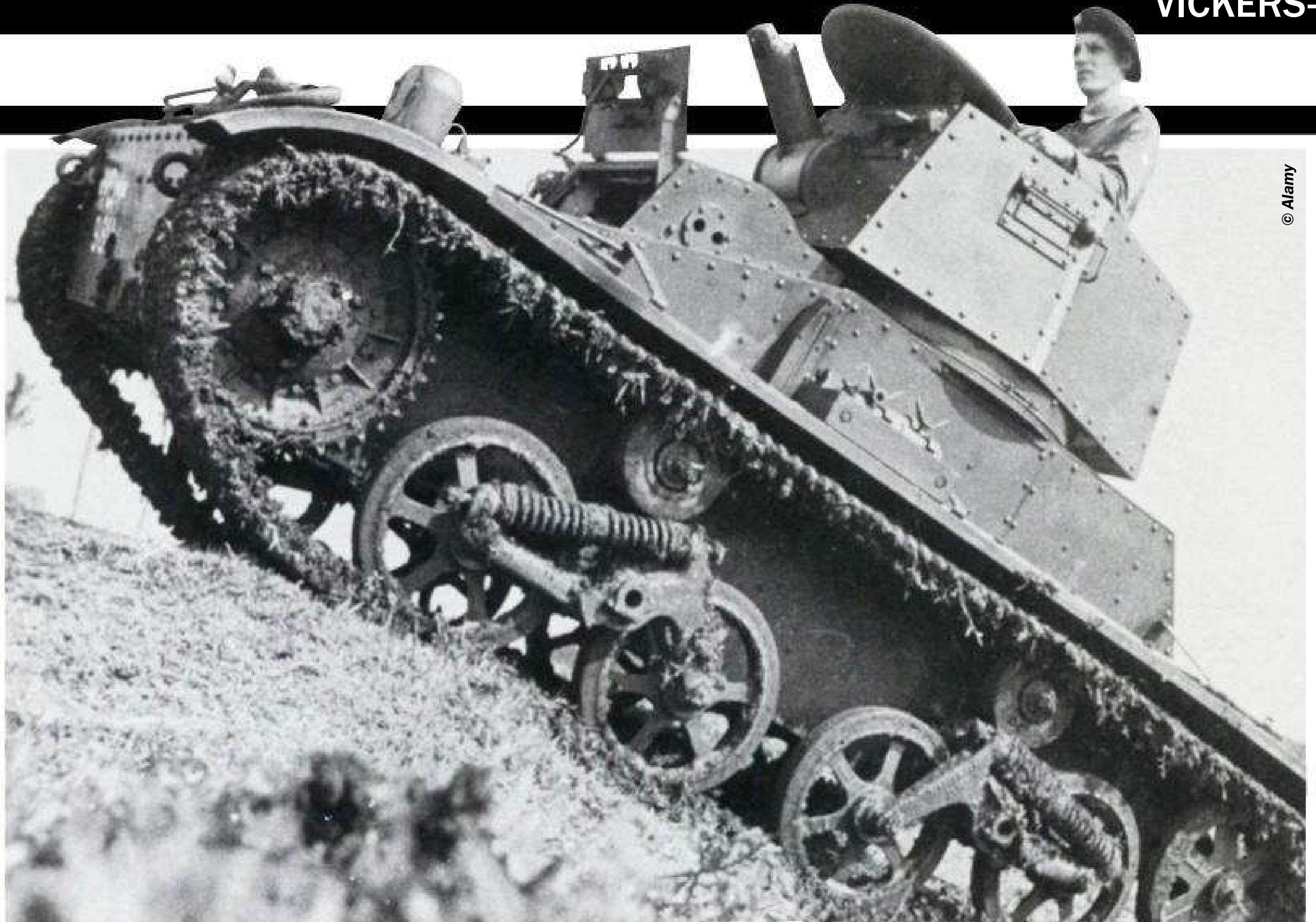


© Armoured Engineering

The driver sat at the front of the tank on the left side, which was unusual for a British-built vehicle

CREW COMPARTMENT

The fighting compartment occupied the middle of the hull. The rectangular-shaped turret was placed above it, offset to the right. Compared with the Mk.III, the hull was 15.4cm (6.1-inches) shorter and 20cm (7.8-inches) wider. Entry into the tank was via the driver's door hood on the left-front of the hull. It could be locked in the open position to help the driver observe road conditions. In combat situations, the driver could look through a periscope when the hatch was locked down.

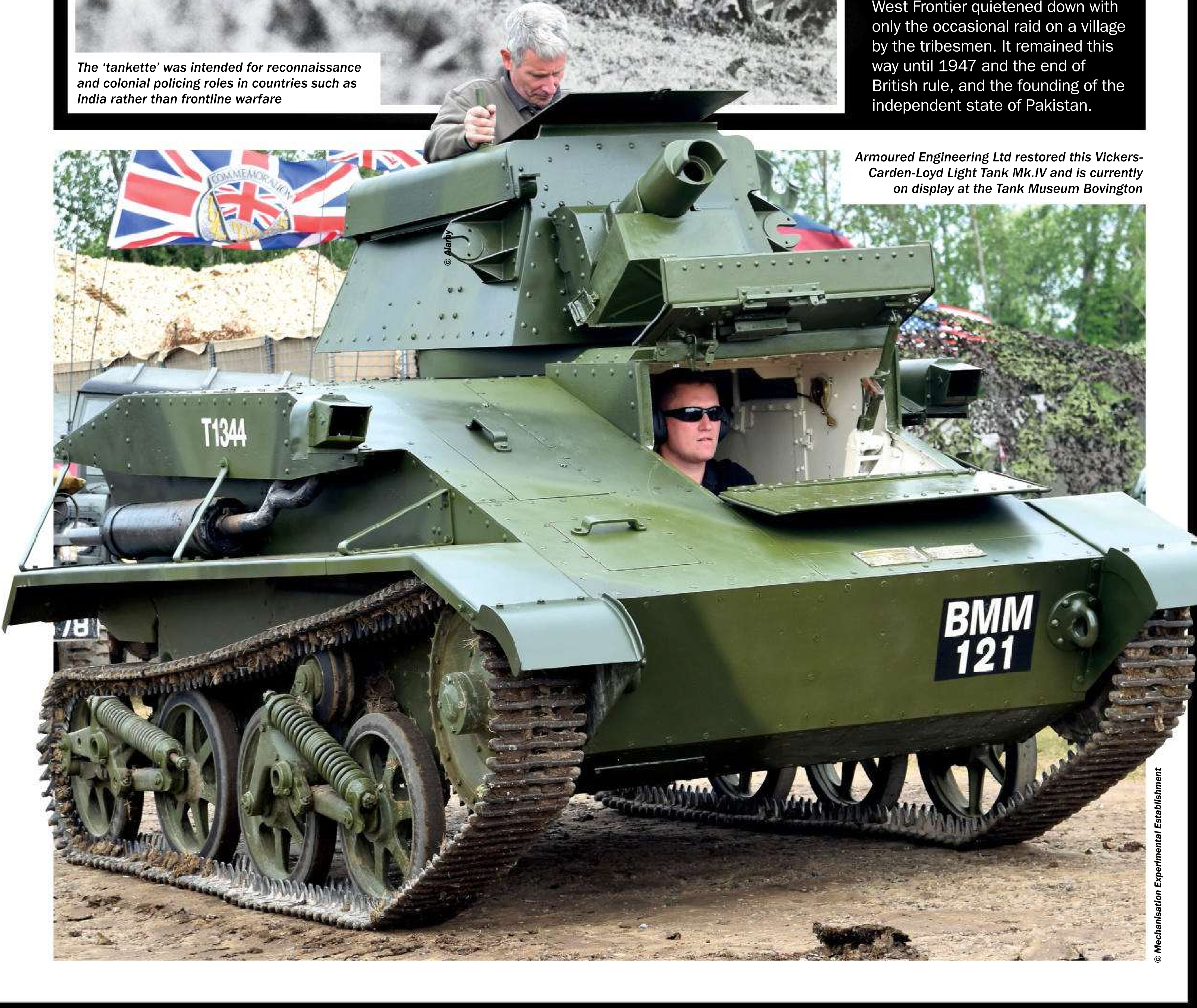


The 'tankette' was intended for reconnaissance and colonial policing roles in countries such as India rather than frontline warfare

© Alamy

SERVICE HISTORY

The British 9th Armoured Car and Light Tank Company, Royal Tank Corps, were equipped with Vickers-Carden-Loyd Mk.IV light tanks. They were sent to the North-West Frontier of India and took part in the 1936-1939 Waziristan campaign against the fiercely independent Pashtun tribesmen that inhabited that mountainous region. They were led by the religious leader Mirzali Khan and deployed guerrilla tactics of ambush; they were not drawn into a decisive battle with the well-trained and numerically superior British troops. The use of bullet-proof tanks armed with machine guns, and air attacks by six RAF squadrons to support the infantry, saw the support for Mirzali Khan begin to wane. In 1940 the North-West Frontier quietened down with only the occasional raid on a village by the tribesmen. It remained this way until 1947 and the end of British rule, and the founding of the independent state of Pakistan.



Armoured Engineering Ltd restored this Vickers-Carden-Loyd Light Tank Mk.IV and is currently on display at the Tank Museum Bovington

© Alamy

© Mechanisation Experimental Establishment

MAN THE CANNONS AND PREPARE TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY!

Climb aboard the most formidable warships in history and immerse yourself in famous battles from Salamis to Midway, meet the admirals who revolutionised war at sea and find out how the fleets of the future are taking shape

NEW
HISTORY OF WAR
NAVAL WARFARE
NAVAL WARFARE
THE CLASHES AND COMMANDERS THAT SHAPED WAR AT SEA
10 OF HISTO GREAT NAVA BATTL
ON SALE NOW
From the makers of HISTORY OF WAR
EPIC ENGAGEMENTS
From Salamis to Midway
FIERCE FIGHTERS
Explore vessels built to kill
THE DAY NELSON BECAME IMMORTAL
ISBN 978-1-80023-910-4
FUTURE

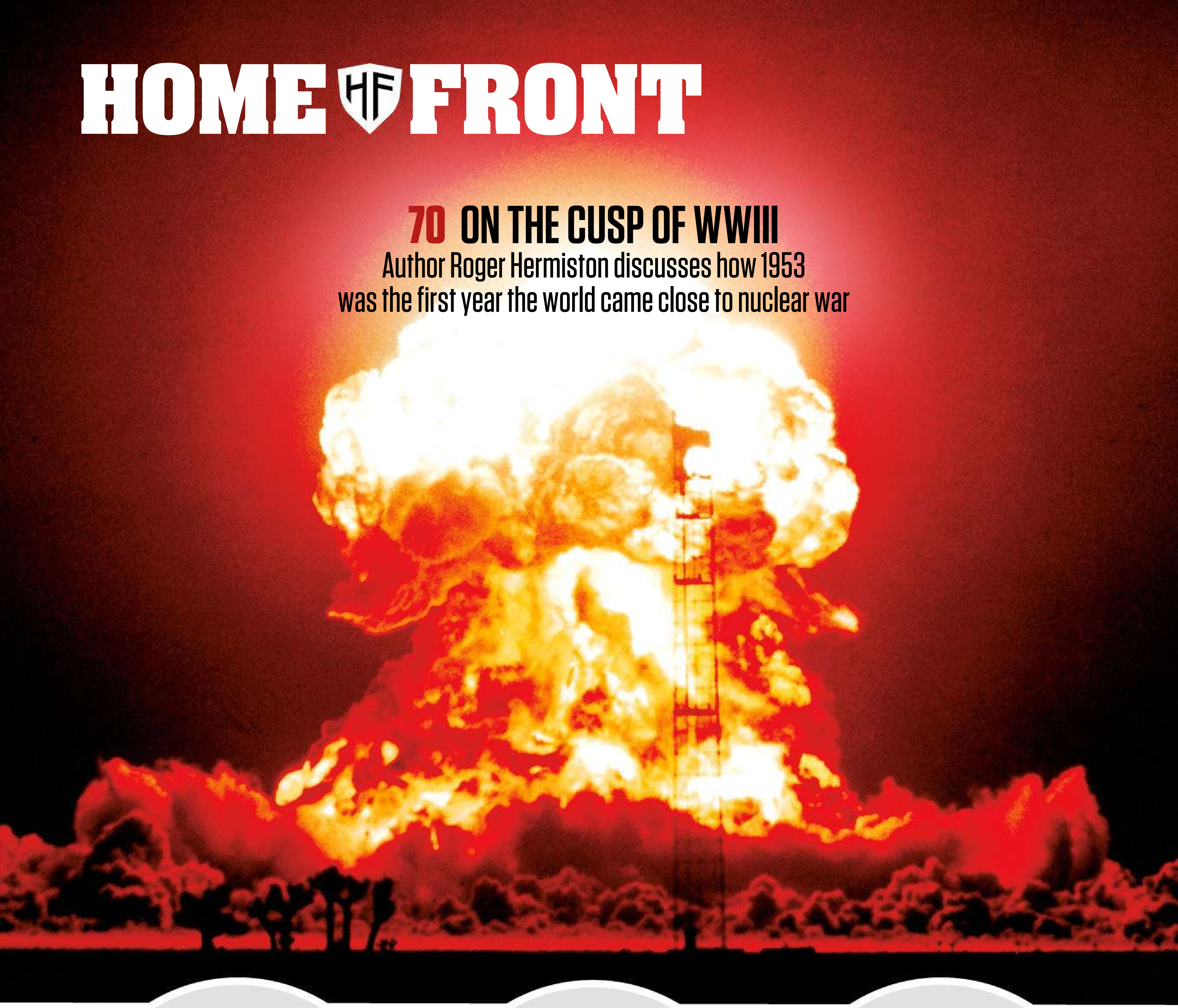
FUTURE

Ordering is easy. Go online at:

magazinesdirect.com

Or get it from selected supermarkets & newsagents

HOME FRONT



70 ON THE CUSP OF WWIII

Author Roger Hermiston discusses how 1953
was the first year the world came close to nuclear war

72

New Dieppe Raid
exhibition in Normandy

76

Reviews of the latest
history books and films

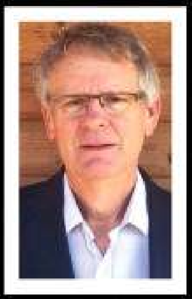
HOUSE OF GODWIN
THE RISE AND FALL OF AN ANGLO-SAXON DYNASTY
MICHAEL JOHN KEY
THE INSURGENT'S DILEMMA
A Struggle to Prevail
DAVID H. UCKO
OUT OF THE SIEGE OF SARAJEVO
MEMOIR OF A FORMER YUGOSLAV
JASNA LEVINGER-GOY

82

Artefact of War:
samurai mask

FOLLOW HISTORY OF WAR: **FACEBOOK** /HistoryofWarMag **TWITTER** @HistoryofWarMag

ON THE CUSP OF WORLD WAR III



Q&A WITH ROGER HERMISTON

In 1953 the US and Soviet Union became capable of mutually assured destruction. Soon after, safeguards were put into place in an attempt to prevent it

What nuclear capabilities did the West and the USSR respectively reach in 1953 that made that year so significant?
It was the year when the world moved a dangerous step forward from the atom bomb to the new terrifying 'superbomb' – a thermonuclear explosive, based on hydrogen fusion, up to a thousand times more destructive than the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Americans had produced their prototype H-bomb – codenamed Ivy Mike – in November 1952; now the Russians successfully tested their own, codenamed Joe-4, in August 1953. As a result the Doomsday Clock, that measurement of how close the world is to Armageddon, was moved to two minutes to midnight (the closest it had been in seven years of Cold War).

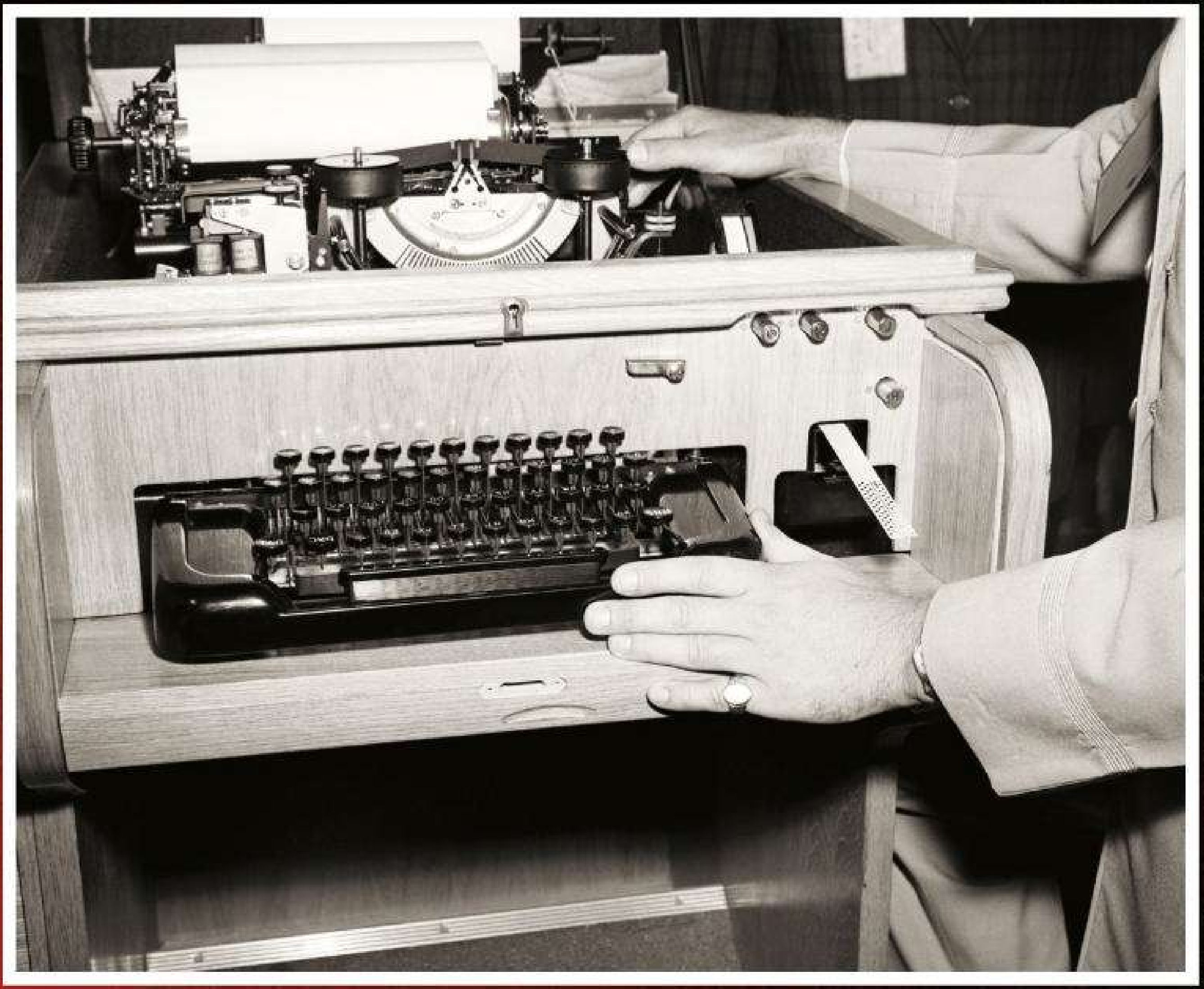
How much did both the White House and the Kremlin know about the other's nuclear capabilities at this time?
Not a huge amount – nowhere remotely what they know today. The Soviets had been well-informed about the American atom bomb by their Western agents, especially Klaus Fuchs, but by 1953 nearly all of them had been uncovered and arrested. As for the West, when the Iron Curtain came down in 1947 it made it very difficult for their spies to penetrate the Kremlin. It was certainly a surprise to President Dwight Eisenhower's administration when Georgy Malenkov, the new Russian leader, announced to the Supreme Soviet that his country now had the H-bomb.

How did the American, Soviet and British nuclear arsenals develop after 1953? How quickly were they able to build enough nuclear weapons to cause mutually assured destruction?
In 1953 the respective nuclear weapon stockpiles of the three countries were USA: 1,169; Soviet Union: 120; and the United Kingdom: one. By 1962, the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the totals were USA: 25,540; Soviet Union: 3,346; and the United Kingdom: 211. As the Soviets grew their stockpile under Leonid Brezhnev, parity between the two great powers came in the mid-1970s. The phrase mutually assured destruction (MAD) was first coined by the US Secretary of State Robert McNamara in the early 1960s.

"TODAY MAD (MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION) IS ENTRENCHED AND ACKNOWLEDGED, SO PUTIN'S DISTURBING RHETORIC WILL REMAIN JUST THAT – RHETORIC"

When were safeguards put in place between (primarily) Moscow and Washington to prevent any accidental escalation or nuclear strike? And what were these earliest safeguards?
After the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 President JF Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev set up a ‘hotline’, providing direct communication between the White House and the Kremlin. In future years additional safeguards were put in place, including the 1971 Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War and the 1972 Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents at Sea.

Exactly how did these safeguards developed during the Cold War and to what extent do they still exist?
Broad safeguards – through reducing the amount of nuclear weapons in circulation – developed through treaties like the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 1987, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in 1991, and the Strategic Offensive Reduction treaty (SORT) in 2002. Interestingly, on 3 January 2022 the five big nuclear powers – United States, China, Russia, France and the United Kingdom – signed a joint statement committing themselves to ‘Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races’.

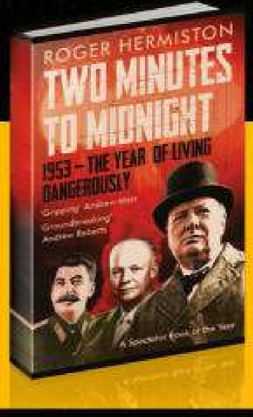


Right: *Equipment for the emergency communications line that was established to link Moscow and Washington as a step to reduce the risk of accidental war. Shown here is a Russian-marked keyboard on one of the teleprinters, c.1963*

You write that President Eisenhower considered a preliminary strike. Do we know if he had any specific plans carry this out, or how these might have played out?
The idea of using tactical A-bombs on the battlefield to end the Korean War was discussed in seven National Security Council meetings between February and March. It never came too close to fruition, but John Foster Dulles, Eisenhower’s Secretary of State, wanted to remove the ‘taboo’ on the nuclear weapon and view it as simply another weapon in his nation’s armoury. Then, after the Soviets successfully tested their H-bomb in August 1953, Eisenhower, thinking about possible nuclear conflict, pondered “whether or not our duty to future generations did not require us to initiate war at the most propitious moment that we could designate”.

Are there any parallels with the present situation, with the rhetoric regarding nuclear arsenals and NATO the closest to war with a nuclear power in decades?
In 1953 the most worrying moments came after the death of Stalin, with the Korean War still raging. There was optimism that we might enter a new era of ‘détente’ with the Soviets, but the problem was no-one really knew what his successors in the Kremlin were thinking. Two weeks after Stalin’s funeral, the shooting down of a British Lincoln bomber by a Soviet MiG fighter – killing all six crew – was a dangerous flashpoint. Today mutually assured destruction is entrenched and acknowledged, so Vladimir Putin’s disturbing rhetoric will remain just that – rhetoric. By attacking the West with nuclear weapons he would invite the destruction of his own country.

Two Minutes to Midnight by Roger Hermiston is available now from Biteback Publishing



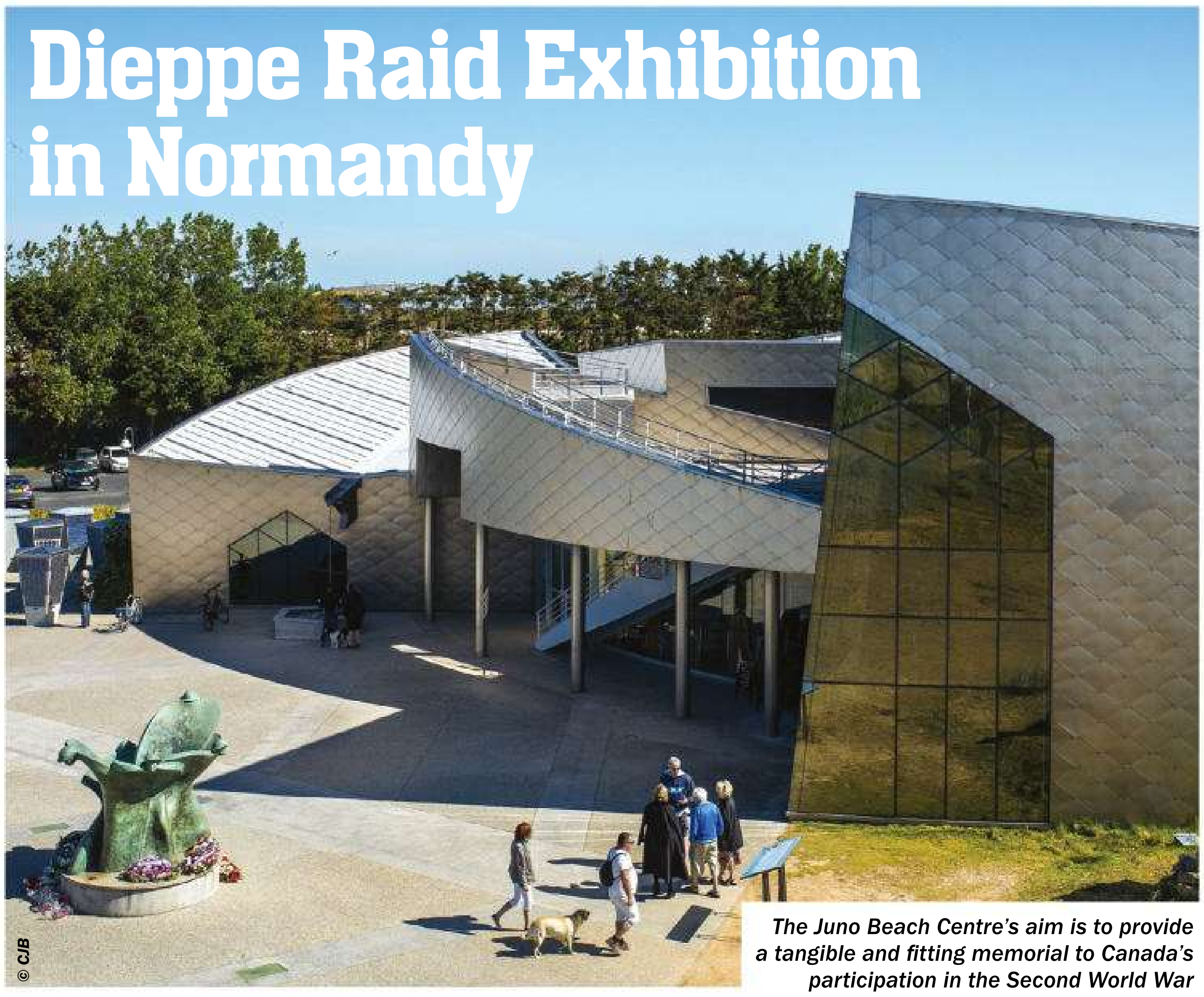
The nuclear test codenamed Badger, on 18 April, 1953, was part of a series of 11 nuclear tests under Operation Upshot–Knothole

Images © Getty

MUSEUMS & EVENTS

Discover the Juno Beach Centre's new exhibition, the Chalke Valley History Festival's 2022 line-up and Bovington Museum's TANKFEST

Dieppe Raid Exhibition in Normandy


© CJB

The Juno Beach Centre's aim is to provide a tangible and fitting memorial to Canada's participation in the Second World War

The Juno Beach Centre in Normandy has created a new exhibition to mark the 80th anniversary of the infamous Dieppe Raid

Opened in Normandy, France, in 2003, the Juno Beach Centre has long highlighted the outstanding contribution made by Canada during the Second World War, particularly its role on D-Day. Now, to commemorate 80 years since the Dieppe Raid, it has unveiled a new exhibition dedicated to one of the bloodiest engagements in Canadian military history.

On 19 August, 1942, Vice-Admiral Louis Mountbatten of the Combined Operations Headquarters ordered a raid on German-occupied Dieppe. The aim of the mission, dubbed Operation Jubilee, was in part to show the Soviet Union that Anglo-American forces remained committed to opening a second front. High command likewise hoped that it would provide Allied forces with experience for a bigger amphibious assault in the future. The predominantly Canadian attackers were expected to occupy the town, demolish fortifications, wreak havoc on harbour facilities and take enemy intelligence and prisoners – all in a single day. However, an underestimation of the German defences, combined with a series of Allied blunders, led to disaster. Of the 4,963 Canadians who took part, only 2,211 returned to Britain. More than 900 died, hundreds were wounded and 1,946 were taken prisoner, constituting the largest surrender of Canadian troops in the conflict.

In recognition of the sacrifices made for Operation Jubilee, the Juno Beach Centre, in partnership with the War Heritage Institute in Belgium, has developed 'From Dieppe to Juno'. The exhibition explores our evolving understanding of the raid, its links to D-Day, and the eventual liberation of the French coastal commune in 1944. Visitors will be able to uncover what happened in five distinct thematic zones, beginning with context about the operation before delving deep into the plans, their tragic implementation and the subsequent propaganda war of both sides. From Dieppe to Juno will then charter the lives of POWs and the questionable notion of 'lessons learned' ahead of the 1944 Normandy landings. Also featured will be numerous personal testimonies from those who served, as well as a unique set of objects and documents shedding light on the still-controversial raid.

© CJB-Ph.Delval

© Alamy

© Getty

***Top:** From Dieppe to Juno, opened on 12 March, 2022, features numerous personal testimonies and artefacts of those who fought during the raid*

***Middle:** Wounded soldiers on the beach. Canada's land-force commander, Major-General JH Roberts, said the raid would be a "piece of cake"*

***Bottom:** While the operation was carried out primarily by Canadian troops, there were also British, American, Australian, Belgian, French, New Zealand, Norwegian, Polish and Czech personnel involved*

Speaking to *History of War*, Marie-Eve Vaillancourt, exhibitions director at the Juno Beach Centre, says: "The Dieppe Raid long overshadowed the Normandy landings in 1944 in Canadian collective memory of the Second World War. It is a permanent scar in our history and is a topic hotly debated among historians still to this day. The exhibition's aim is to showcase the ripple effects of the raid over time and showcase the plurality of 'voices' related to the raid, using first-person accounts and testimonies."

For more information visit:
junobeach.org

Chalke Valley History Festival 2022

Following a shortened show last year, the Chalke Valley History Festival will return to a seven-day programme that promises to be bigger and better than ever

The Chalke Valley Festival is set to return from June 20-26, 2022, for a week-long spectacular of historical entertainment, inspiring discussions and a multitude of other open-air events. Situated at its stunning venue in Broad Chalke near Salisbury, Wiltshire, the show will boast talks from acclaimed speakers, military re-enactments, Roman-style fast food, traditional crafting, music through the ages and much more.

Among the renowned attendees announced so far are journalist and broadcaster Helena Merriman, presenting a Cold War-era escape story beneath the Berlin Wall, and bestselling historian Andrew Roberts, whose new book about George III examines the last king of America. Those interested in the Second World War, meanwhile, can speak with RAF Mosquito veterans or learn more about the role of women throughout the conflict. This year will also see the return of the Chalke Valley History Festival for Schools, enabling students to engage with the past in an exciting and immersive manner at a two-day special event.

Festival chair James Holland says: "There really is going to be an incredible range of history on offer this year... and, once again, we have among the very best historians around coming to speak. But more than ever we are offering a much wider programme that includes... a reconstructed Iron Age round-house, vintage funfair and some truly stunning and original living history displays, from Restoration-era horse racing to a forensic reconstruction of how Richard III lost his life at Bosworth... I really do think this is our very best programme ever."

For more information visit: cvhf.org.uk

Visitors can immerse themselves in millennia of social and military history against the backdrop of the beautiful and ancient Chalke Valley downland

Fantastic living history displays are just some of the thrills awaiting – others include food stalls, live music, a funfair and numerous on-stage talks

Images © Martin Cook

TANKFEST at Bovington Tank Museum

Living history battles, intense tank displays and British Army vehicle shows will converge at Bovington's Tank Museum for TANKFEST 2022

Holding the most historically significant collection of fighting armour in the world, The Tank Museum in Bovington, Dorset, is to host its 2022 TANKFEST from 24-26 June. The iconic event, returning to its pre-pandemic three-day programme, starts with what organisers describe as a "history festival" feel. This will include an expansive range of talks and presentations, allowing visitors more time to explore the entire museum – not least its 300 tanks from 26 nations – as well as trader stalls and living history re-enactments.

The main demonstrations will take place on Saturday and Sunday, with guest armour such as a Sherman 51, AMX and Panhard AML. There are also hopes to bring in an OT90, Sherman Firefly, M10 and Hetzer. Those attending will need to specify AM or PM arena sessions for the museum's Covid measurements. Additionally, assembling on the lecture stage will be Jesse Alexander, known for *Real Time History* and *The Great War* YouTube channel, and Lance Geiger of *The History Guy* YouTube channel, alongside other speakers.

Nik Wyness, head of marketing at The Tank Museum, says: "TANKFEST is our biggest fundraising event of the year and we're so pleased to see its return to 'almost normal' in 2022 after two years of disruption. TANKFEST gives our visitors the chance to see a world-beating collection of running armour, including guest vehicles from other collections and a display from the British Army." Tickets are available now.

For more information visit: tankmuseum.org

Images © The Tank Museum, Bovington

WWII THIS MONTH...

APRIL 1942

To commemorate 80 years since the Second World War, **History of War** will be taking a look at some of the key events taking place during each month of the conflict

AUGSBURG AIRMEN

On 17 April, 12 Avro Lancaster bombers of No. 44 and No. 97 Squadrons, RAF Bomber Command, took part in an audacious daylight raid on Augsburg, south Germany. Codenamed Operation Margin, the raid's target was the MAN Diesel works, which produced U-boat engines. This was considered a vital target in damaging Germany's efforts in the Atlantic, where U-boats continued to target Allied shipping. The Lancasters were picked for this mission due to their speed and air defences, and flew at low altitude in order to evade German radar.

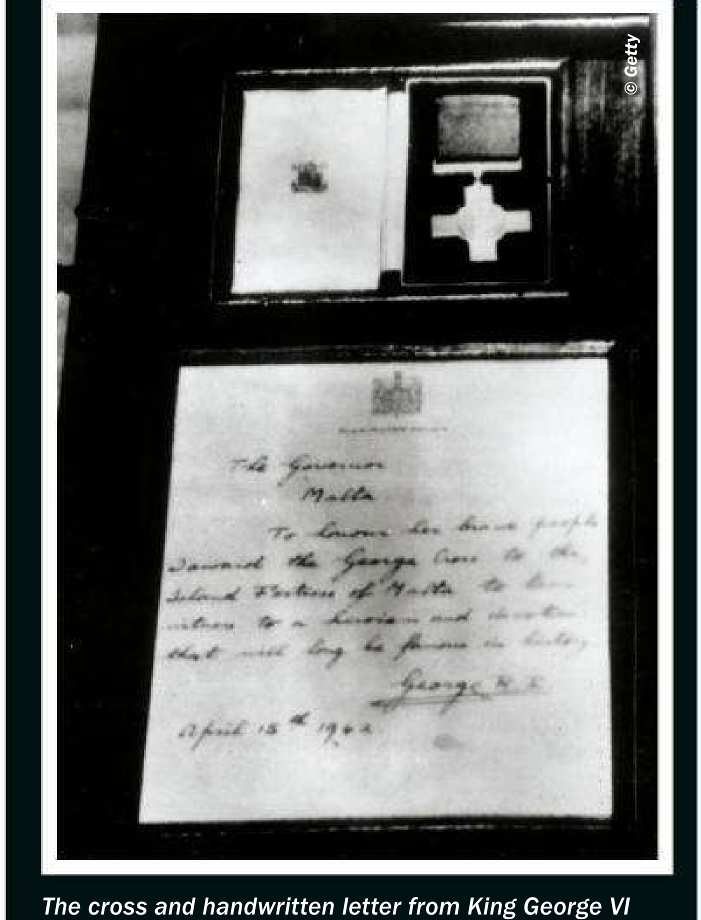
Just before 3pm, the Lancasters took off and headed south over France before bearing east. The pilots flew as low as 20 feet to avoid radar detection, having to sharply ascend to avoid trees and buildings. The 12 bombers encountered some enemy air defences and 44 Squadron's planes attracted the attention of Luftwaffe fighters at Beaumont-le-Roger. Four aircraft from 44 Squadron were shot down en route to the target, with the remaining two pressing ahead.

In total, seven of the 12 Lancasters were lost on the operation, and only minimal damage was inflicted on the MAN Diesel works. Nonetheless, Churchill praised the operation, calling it "an outstanding achievement of the Royal Air Force".

© Getty

© Getty

The airmen praised after the raid on the MAN Diesel works, south Germany. Left to right: Squadron Leader David Penman, Sergeant DN Huntley, P/O DO Sands, Bracken, Flight Lieutenant B Hallows, Sergeant RP Irons and Squadron Leader John Dering Nettleton, VC (1917-43)



© Getty

The Governor
Malta

George R.I.

April 15th 1942

The cross and handwritten letter from King George VI

THE HERO ISLAND

After months of bombardment by Italian and German air forces, Malta was awarded the George Cross in recognition of the population's resolve and bravery. In a handwritten address to the island's governor on 15 April, King George VI declared: "To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history." The cross was later incorporated into the Maltese flag.

'BAEDEKER BLITZ'

In response to the RAF bombings of Lübeck and other historic locations, the Luftwaffe began a series of air raids targeting picturesque cities in England, including Exeter, Bath, Norwich, York and Canterbury. In the south-west Exeter was the first victim of these raids, on the night of 25-26 April. Eighty people were killed and 55 wounded during the bombing. On the night of 28-29 April, York was bombed, killing 79 and seriously wounding 80 more. Many of the targets of the bombings, being non-military, were less prepared for air raids than many of England's larger industrial centres. The raids were named after a popular series of pre-war German tourism booklets, the Baedeker guides.

ABSOLUTE POWER

Addressing the Reichstag on 26 April, Hitler assumed what little power was left outside of his control when he was granted authority over the German judiciary. This made him the 'Supreme Judge' of Germany, capable of overruling any court in the country.

© Alamy

Hitler photographed during his 1942 speech

THE BATTLE OF LAKE CHANGJIN

A BIG-BUDGET, ACTION-PACKED THRILLER SET DURING THE KOREAN WAR THAT PLAYS FAST AND LOOSE WITH THE FACTS

Directed by: Tsui Hark, Dante Lam and Chen Kaige
Starring: Wu Jing **Distributor:** Trinity CineAsia
Digital release: 16 May 2022

This movie tells the story from the Chinese perspective of the desperate Battle of Chosin Reservoir fought in 1950 during the Korean War. It is reportedly China's most expensive film to date and its second-largest hit at the box office. Since its release *The Battle of Changjin* has caused some controversy, standing accused of being jingoistic Chinese propaganda. However, arguably it is no more jingoistic than the likes of Michael Bay's bombastic *Pearl Harbor*, Steven Spielberg's flag-waving *Saving Private Ryan* or Roland Emmerich's rallying *Midway*.

As with most war movies, it inevitably takes a somewhat creative approach to the facts. It portrays China's intervention in the Korean War as a spontaneous righteous crusade. Furthermore, at the time the Chinese 9th Army (referred to as Corps in the film) in Shandong was preparing for an invasion of Taiwan (along with the 20th and 26th Armies) so it was already on a wartime footing and not preparing to go home as the film suggests.

The film confusingly gives the impression that the Korean War commenced with the American Inchon landings, whereas these took place two-and-a-half months after hostilities commenced. It was this audacious amphibious assault that halted communist North Korea's almost-successful invasion of the South. General MacArthur unfortunately thought Mao Zedong's warning about not crossing the 38th parallel was a bluff; he was not permitted to fly reconnaissance flights over the Chinese border so was unaware of the impending danger.

The film shows Mao's hesitation over intervening as his Communist Party had only just come to power after prolonged civil war and China's Nationalists, backed by America, were holding out on Taiwan. However, Mao's actions were clearly premeditated. Between July and October 1950 he massed 750,000 troops on the Sino-Korean border, and the following month 300,000 of these crossed over into North Korea. Through weight of numbers they swiftly overwhelmed the South Korean divisions on the Chongchon River. In the northeast they attacked the Americans in the Chosin area, resulting in a 17-day battle with 30,000 troops surrounded by 120,000 Chinese. It shows the Chinese successfully routing the UN forces despite their superior firepower.

Importantly, the film does not shy away from showing the violence of war, and while the Americans, including General MacArthur, are somewhat caricatures, they are portrayed reasonably fairly. It is interesting to see the Chinese People's Volunteer Army armed with British Sten submachine guns, presumably captured from the Nationalists. Other hardware on show includes American Sherman and Pershing tanks, which look as if they may have been built specifically for the film. At three hours the movie is a bit of a marathon, especially as it takes two of these to get to the battle. However, the build-up is not short of stunning set pieces, most notably one involving a train. Made with stunning cinematography *The Battle of Changjin* is a visceral, adrenalin-pumping action movie. **ATJ**

Images: Trinity CineAsia

THE HOUSE OF GODWIN

THE RISE AND FALL OF AN ANGLO-SAXON DYNASTY

A THOROUGH STUDY OF WHAT SO NEARLY BECAME ENGLAND'S WARRIOR DYNASTY

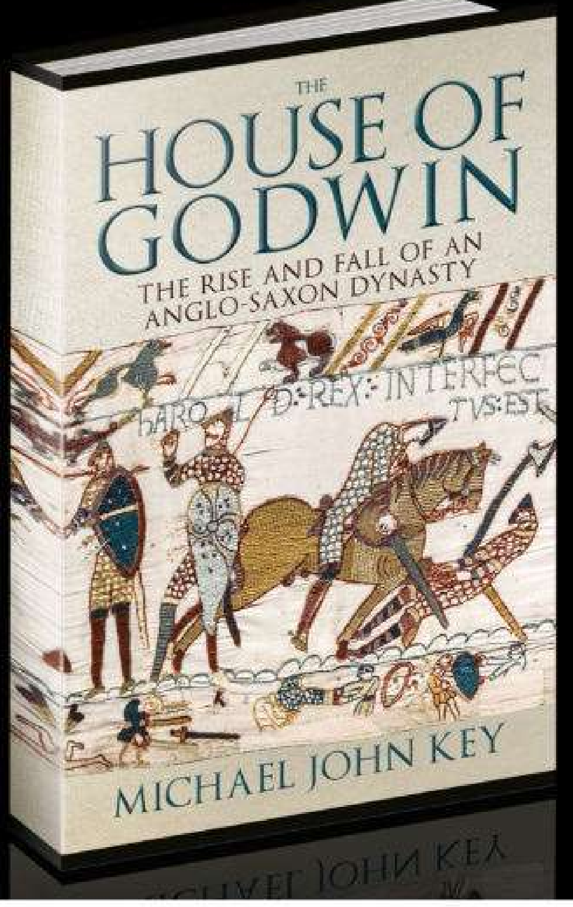
Author: Michael John Key **Publisher:** Amberley **Price:** £25 **Released:** Out now

It was so nearly so different. Having risen from relative obscurity, Earl Godwin had married his eldest daughter off to Edward, the king of England, and raised his sons to the most important earldoms in the country. When Godwin died, his surviving sons Harold and Tostig slipped smoothly into the positions of command and influence that Godwin had earned during his life, becoming the effective rulers of the kingdom as Edward slowly released the reins of power.

With Edward childless, the question of the succession increasingly dominated the last years of his reign. Tostig, who Michael John Key argues might have been Edward's favourite among the four Godwinson earls, was banished in 1065 following a revolt by the northern nobility, with Harold's connivance. A furious Tostig, nursing his sense of betrayal, went looking for foreign backers to help him reclaim his inheritance and found a backer in Harald Hardrada, the king of Norway and the most famous warrior of the age.

Harold, who by this time had been crowned king following Edward's death, was concentrating on the threat from Normandy: Duke William claimed that Edward had promised the crown to him. Hearing of his brother's invasion, Harold rushed north, killed Tostig and Harald at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, only to hear that William had landed in Sussex…

In this fascinating book, Key recounts the extraordinary rise and the even more dramatic fall of the House of Godwin and successfully argues that, if Harold had prevailed at the Battle of Hastings (and it was a very close-run thing) he would have gone on to be regarded as one of the great kings of English history, and Earl Godwin as the founder of one of the great royal dynasties. But Harold's exhausted men, having fought one battle 19 days earlier, were unable to hold out to nightfall in the second. William won, and history took one of its sharpest turns. **EA**



THE INSURGENT'S DILEMMA

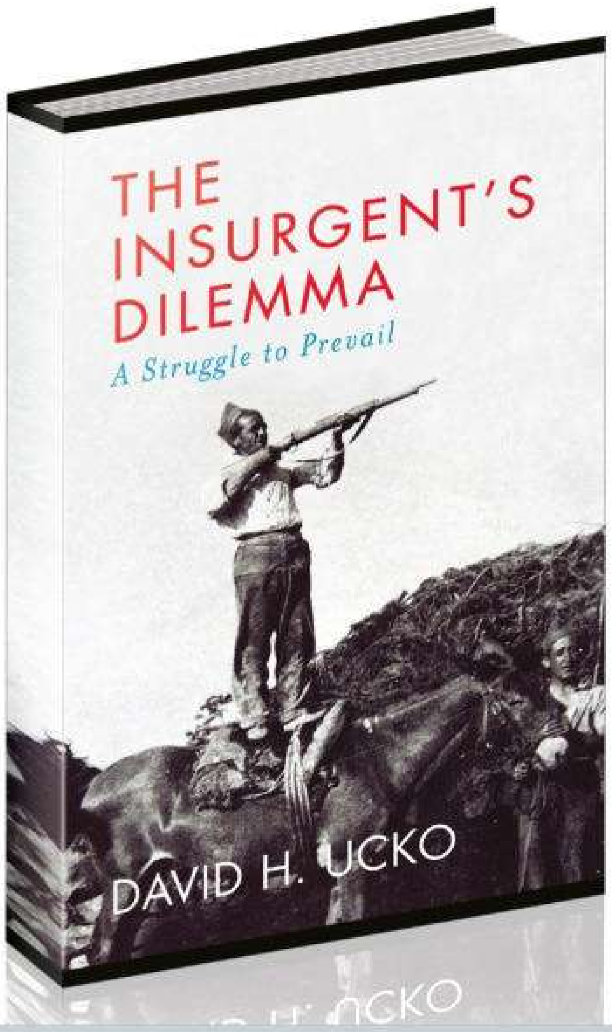
INSURGENTS ARE RARELY STRONG ENOUGH TO POSE A CREDIBLE THREAT TO ESTABLISHED POWER, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN LEARNING NEW WAYS TO PLY THEIR TRADE

Author: David H Ucko **Publisher:** Hurst & Co **Price:** £30
Format: Hardback **Released:** Out now

The depth of scholarship that David H Ucko has invested in his analysis of insurgencies is reflected in the author's 164 pages of notes and bibliography, accounting for more than a third of the book. As the author points out, insurgents may fail to overthrow an established regime deploying superior firepower, but they are adept at giving their opponents a run for their money.

From Darius's frustration at his enemy's evasion in the Scythian campaign of 513 BCE, to Napoleon's anger at guerrilla resistance during the Peninsular War, states struggle when faced with insurgency. Yet, in reviewing the overall experience in recent years, there are exceedingly few instances in which they have succeeded in seizing sustained power. Gone are the days when insurgents could mobilise rural populations and build coercive capability to make a conventional showdown a feasible path to power. Consider the recent experience of ISIS, who were all but vaporised by superior conventional forces within three years. However, in the likewise Islamic scenario of Afghanistan, it is painfully obvious that the well-organised Taliban succeeded in prevailing over a democratically elected government and its armed forces.

Ucko's study analyses three insurgency approaches. First, there's an insurgency that restricts its objectives to specific local targets rather than aim for regime change. Secondly, the infiltrative type competes quasi-legally while using violence behind the scenes. Finally, the ideational insurgency is united by an idea rather than territory and is more difficult to suppress militarily. "Given these trends," says the author, "it is becoming increasingly important to rethink insurgency and also the strategies of response." The way forward, he argues, is for states to articulate what they are fighting for, not just the threats they seek to defeat. **JS**

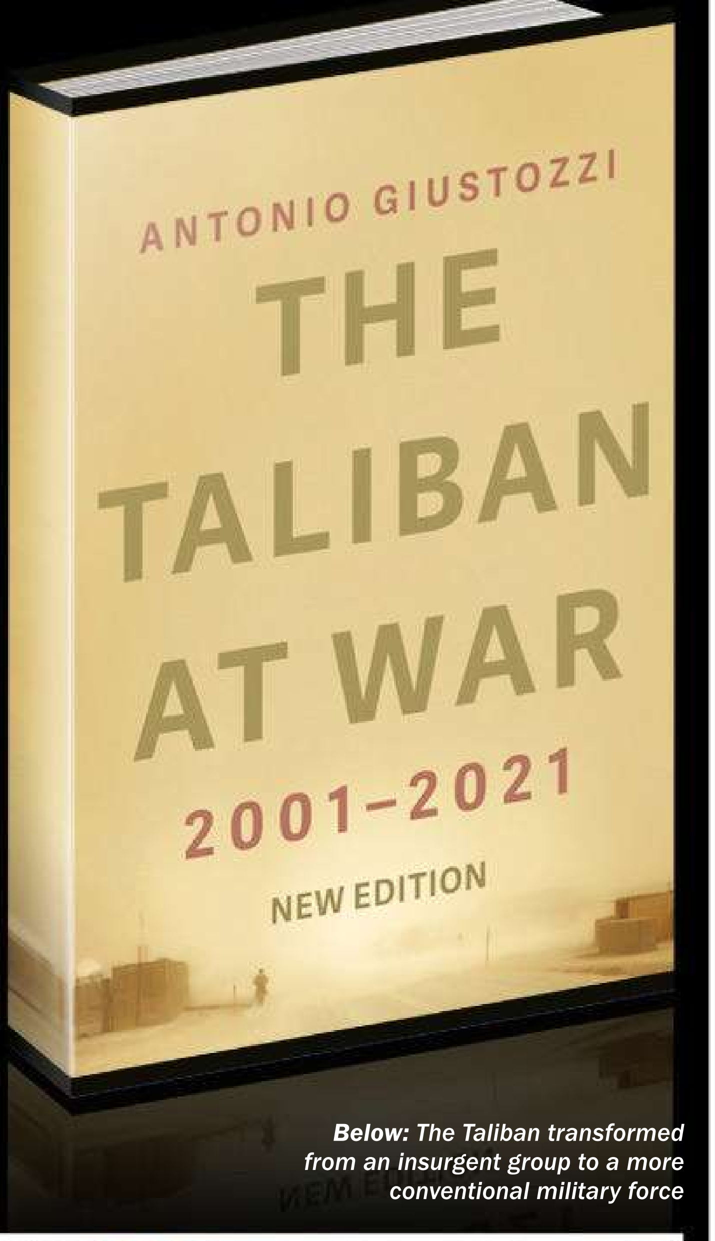


THE TALIBAN AT WAR

2001-2021

A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE TALIBAN'S EVOLUTION FROM RAGTAG INSURGENCY TO A POTENT MILITARY FORCE THAT DEFIED THE WEST AND REGAINED CONTROL OF AFGHANISTAN

Author: Antonio Giustozzi **Publisher:** Hurst **Price:** £18.99
Format: Paperback **Released:** May 2022

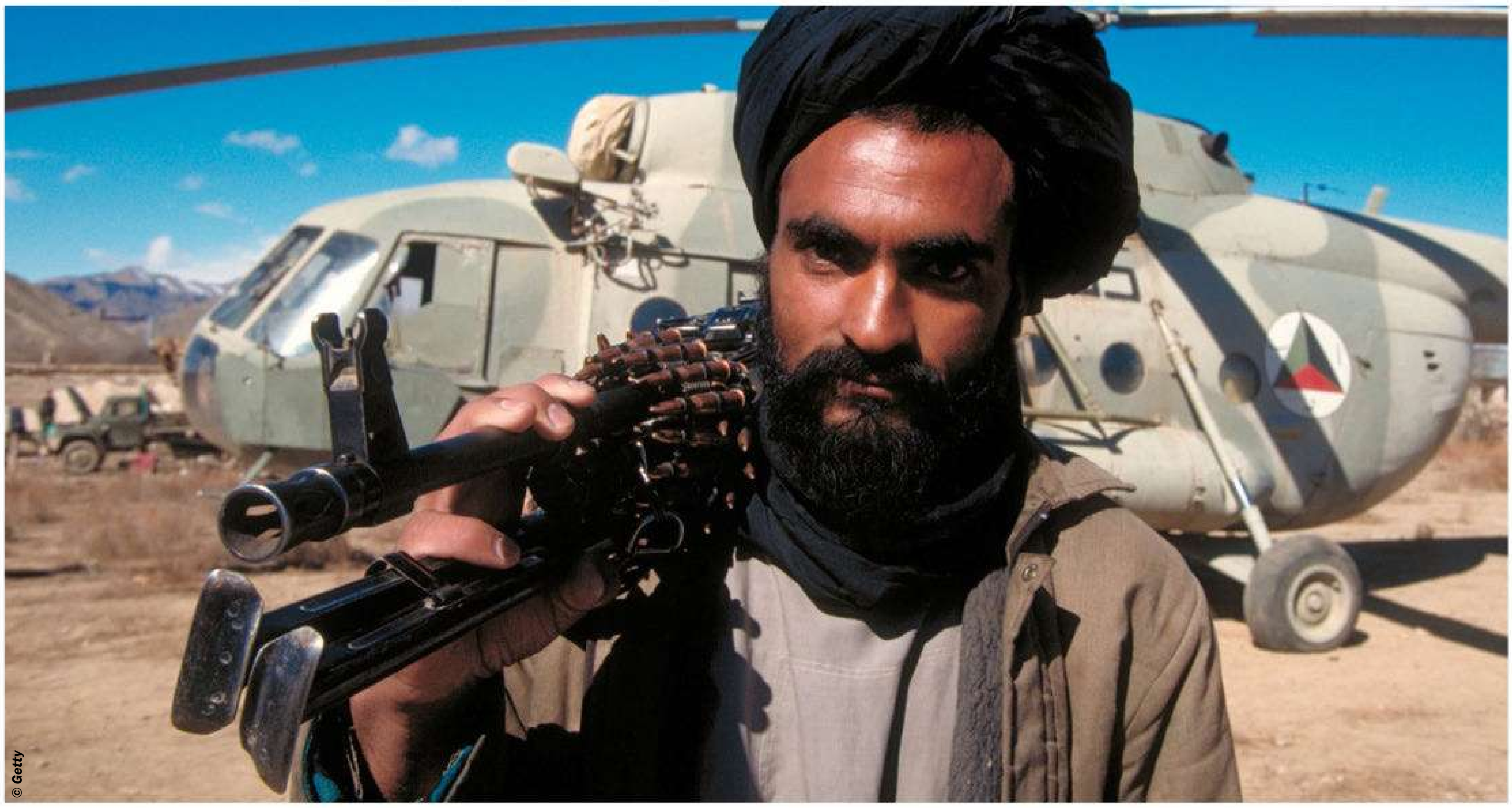


The fall of the Taliban was as swift and brutal as the collapse of New York's Twin Towers in the 9/11 terrorist attack, the event that triggered the US-led offensive that liberated Afghanistan from the Islamists. In this book, Antonio Giustozzi traces the history of the Taliban from the disarray of their self-styled emirate in 2002, through the crisis of the 2013 Quetta Shura with its bitter political and personal rivalries, to their installation in Kabul in 2021 as Afghanistan's new rulers after the hasty US withdrawal.

Any attempt by the Taliban propaganda machine to portray themselves as fighters for justice and religious virtue is demolished by the account of the movement's funding sources. Drug smugglers, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, Al-Qaeda and Pakistan's military at various times served as generous financial supporters. These deep pockets in part enabled the insurgents to improve their fighting equipment and training, so that by 2016 they were gaining an edge over the Afghan security forces. Three years later, the Taliban leadership was able to consolidate their military superiority, thanks in no small measure to the easing off of American air strikes.

The final seizure of power exposes a litany of political misjudgements on the part of the US, outwitted if not outgunned by their opponents. In February 2020, the Trump administration signed a peace deal with the Taliban, quite an astonishing miscalculation when considering their opponent's outspoken determination to install themselves in Kabul's presidential palace. In August, President Ashraf Ghani fled and the insurgents who had successfully fought against the might of the American superpower and its allies, as the author points out, found themselves having to deal with the unexpected task of governing Afghanistan. **JS**

***Below:** The Taliban transformed from an insurgent group to a more conventional military force*


© Getty

Civilians take cover behind a UN armoured vehicle during the siege. It's estimated that around 11,000 people were killed

© Alamy

OUT OF THE SIEGE OF SARAJEVO

MEMOIR OF A FORMER YUGOSLAV

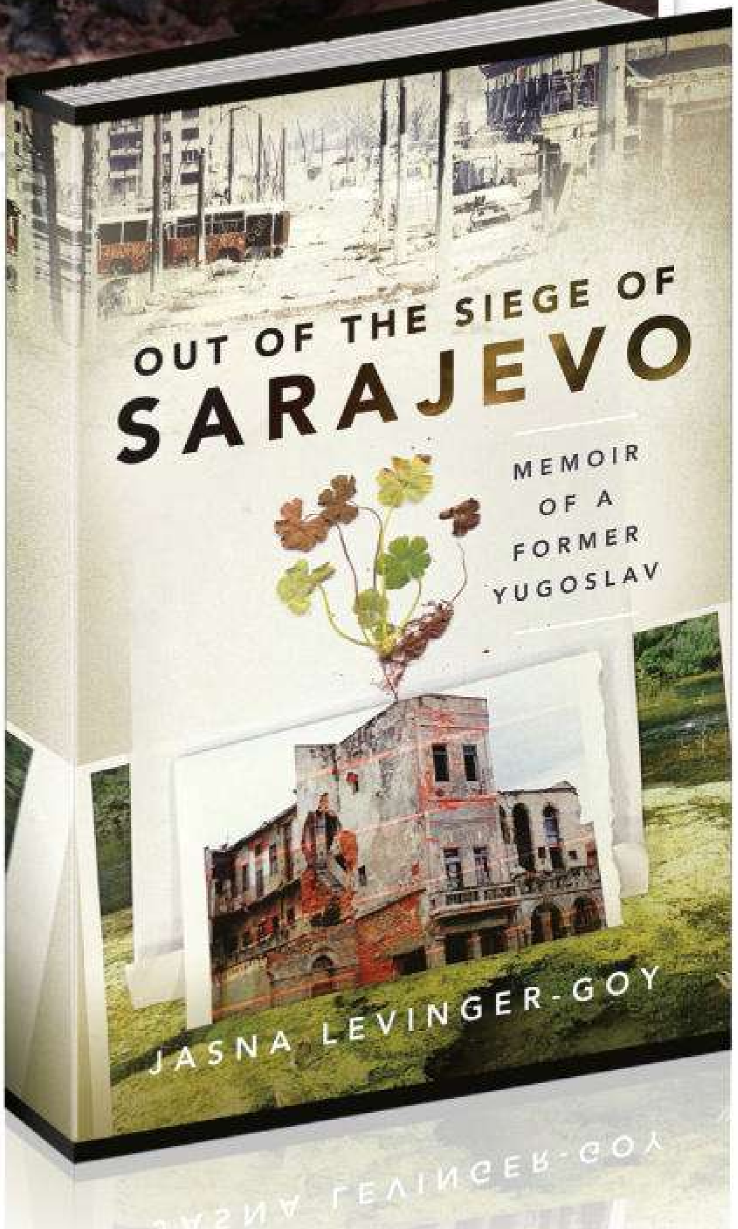
A TIMELY ACCOUNT OF A EUROPEAN WAR WITH SOBERING PARALLELS TO THE PRESENT

Author: Jasna Levinger-Goy **Publisher:** Pen & Sword Military **Price:** £20

In light of what Ukraine's cities are facing, this book is a timely and stark portrait of the horrors of urban warfare. Sarajevo along with Beirut became bywords for what can happen to a once-thriving city torn apart by unbridled sectarian hatred. Born in Sarajevo, Levinger-Goy witnessed first-hand the tragic civil war that fractured Bosnia and Herzegovina in the wake of the breakup of Yugoslavia.

By the time of the conflict Sarajevo was a city of half-a-million souls, a multi-ethnic population with a diverse heritage. The author covers the road to war which was sparked by Bosnia and Herzegovina's declaration of independence and the refusal of its people to coexist. The stories of families torn apart and scattered to the winds reminds the reader of Ukraine's ongoing agony. Facing dwindling food and sporadic water supplies, with constant shelling and shooting, reluctantly Levinger-Goy and her family fled to Belgrade.

This is very much a personal memoir and is not intended as a military history. It covers 10 years of the author's life from 1992-2002 so the siege of Sarajevo is not really the focus, but rather the starting point. It is about her painful loss of identity as a Yugoslav as she never considered herself Bosnian, Croat or Serb. Levinger-Goy eventually emigrated to the UK, where she made a new home and life for herself. In the epilogue she returned to visit Sarajevo in 2004 to be sadly greeted as a traitor for abandoning her country. This short, sobering book is a valuable reminder of a war now long forgotten and the terrible impact it had. **ATJ**



“THIS SHORT, SOBERING BOOK IS A VALUABLE REMINDER OF A WAR NOW LONG FORGOTTEN AND THE TERRIBLE IMPACT IT HAD”

LOCATE BELOW TARGET. READ TARGET. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The existence of the world's elite forces is no secret, but the nature of their missions certainly is. Prepare to dive into some of the most dangerous operations in history and uncover what it takes to become the best of the best

NEW
From the makers of HISTORY OF WAR
THE TRAINING, TACTICS & TARGETS BEHIND THE WORLD'S ELITE UNITS
SPECIAL FORCES
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE SAS
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW With former SAS sniper Billy Billingham
SHADOW WARRIORS From Canada to New Zealand, meet the world's elite fighting units
BRAVO TWO ZERO The failed mission that led to a truly epic escape
CHINOOK Climb aboard a helicopter made for top-secret operations
OPERATION NIMROD Inside the mission to liberate the besieged Iranian embassy
NAVY SEALS Find out what it takes to join America's finest force
SPECIAL FORCES
ISBN 978-1-80023-798-8
ON SALE NOW

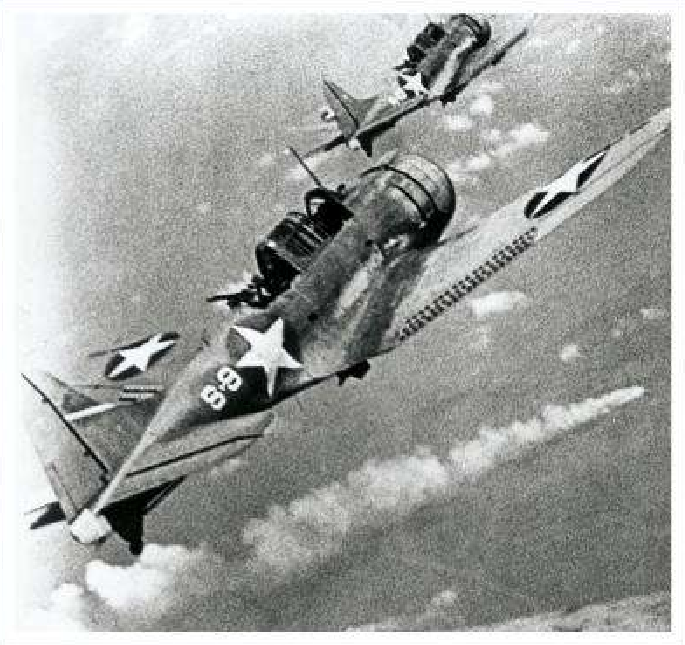
FUTURE

Ordering is easy. Go online at:

magazinesdirect.com

Or get it from selected supermarkets & newsagents

NEXT MONTH



MIDWAY

THE TURNING POINT

BLOW-BY-BLOW OF HOW THE US NAVY AMBUSHED JAPAN'S PACIFIC PUSH AND BEGAN THE FIGHT BACK IN THE EAST

Images © Getty

ON SALE 12 MAY

HISTORY OF WAR

Future PLC Quay House, The Ambury, Bath BA1 1UA

Editorial

Editor-in-Chief **Tim Williamson**
timothy.williamson@futurenet.com
Senior Designer **Curtis Fermor-Dunman**
Features Editor **Tom Garner**
Production Editor **Iain Noble**
Senior Art Editor **Duncan Crook**

Contributors
Edoardo Albert, Hareth Al Bustani, Nick Van Der Bijl, Murray Dahm, Stuart Hadaway, Michael E Haskew, Anthony Tucker Jones, Jules Stewart

Photography
Alamy, Nicholas Forder, Getty
All copyrights and trademarks are recognised and respected

Advertising
Media packs are available on request
UK Commercial Director **Clare Dove**
clare.dove@futurenet.com
Senior Advertising Manager **Matthew Johnston**
matthew.johnston@futurenet.com
07801 930735
Account Manager **Garry Brookes**
garry.brookes@futurenet.com
+44 020 3970 4176

International Licensing
History of War is available for licensing and syndication. To find our more contact us at licensing@futurenet.com or view our available content at www.futurecontenthub.com.
Head of Print Licensing **Rachel Shaw**
licensing@futurenet.com

Subscriptions
Subscription delays: Disruption remains within the UK and international delivery networks. Allow 7 days before contacting us about late delivery at **help@magazinesdirect.com**
UK orderline & enquiries **0330 333 1113**
Overseas order line and enquiries **+44 (0) 330 333 1113**
Online orders & enquiries **www.magazinesdirect.com**
Marketing Director, Magazines & Memberships **Sharon Todd**

Circulation
Head of Newstrade **Ben Oakden**

Production
Head of Production **Mark Constance**
Production Project Manager **Clare Scott**
Advertising Production Manager **Joanne Crosby**
Digital Editions Controller **Jason Hudson**
Production Manager **Nola Cokely**

Management
Content Director **Gemma Lavender**
Chief Growth Officer **Claire MacLellan**
Commercial Finance Director **Tom Swayne**
Managing Director **Sarah Rafati Howard**
Head of Art & Design **Greg Whitaker**

Printed by William Gibbons & Sons Ltd

Distributed by Marketforce, 5 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HU www.marketforce.co.uk Tel: 0203 787 9060

ISSN 2054-376X

We are committed to only using magazine paper which is derived from responsibly managed, certified forestry and chlorine-free manufacture. The paper in this magazine was sourced and produced from sustainable managed forests, conforming to strict environmental and socioeconomic standards. The manufacturing paper mill holds full FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification and accreditation

All contents © 2022 Future Publishing Limited or published under licence. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used, stored, transmitted or reproduced in any way without the prior written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England and Wales. Registered office: Quay House, The Ambury, Bath BA1 1UA. All information contained in this publication is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. You are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this publication. Apps and websites mentioned in this publication are not under our control. We are not responsible for their contents or any other changes or updates to them. This magazine is fully independent and not affiliated in any way with the companies mentioned herein.

If you submit material to us, you warrant that you own the material and/or have the necessary rights/permissions to supply the material and you automatically grant Future and its licensees a licence to publish your submission in whole or in part in any/all issues and/or editions of publications, in any format published worldwide and on associated websites, social media channels and associated products. Any material you submit is sent at your own risk and, although every care is taken, neither Future nor its employees, agents, subcontractors or licensees shall be liable for loss or damage. We assume all unsolicited material is for publication unless otherwise stated, and reserve the right to edit, amend, adapt all submissions.

History of War (ISSN 2054-376X) April, Issue 106, is published monthly with an extra issue in October by Future Publishing, Quay House, The Ambury, Bath, BA1 1UA, UK The US annual subscription price is $171.60 Airfreight and mailing in the USA by agent named World Container Inc., c/o BBT 150-15 183rd St, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Prices is Pending at Brooklyn NY 11256 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to History of War, World Container Inc., c/o BBT 150-15 183rd St, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA Subscription records are maintained at Future Publishing, c/o Air Business Subscriptions, Rockwood House, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3DH. UK

Widely Recycled

ipso. Regulated

FUTURE

Connectors.
Creators.
Experience
Makers.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR)
www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive **Zillah Byng-Thorne**
Non-executive Chairman **Richard Huntingford**
Chief Financial Officer **Penny Ladkin-Brand**

Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244

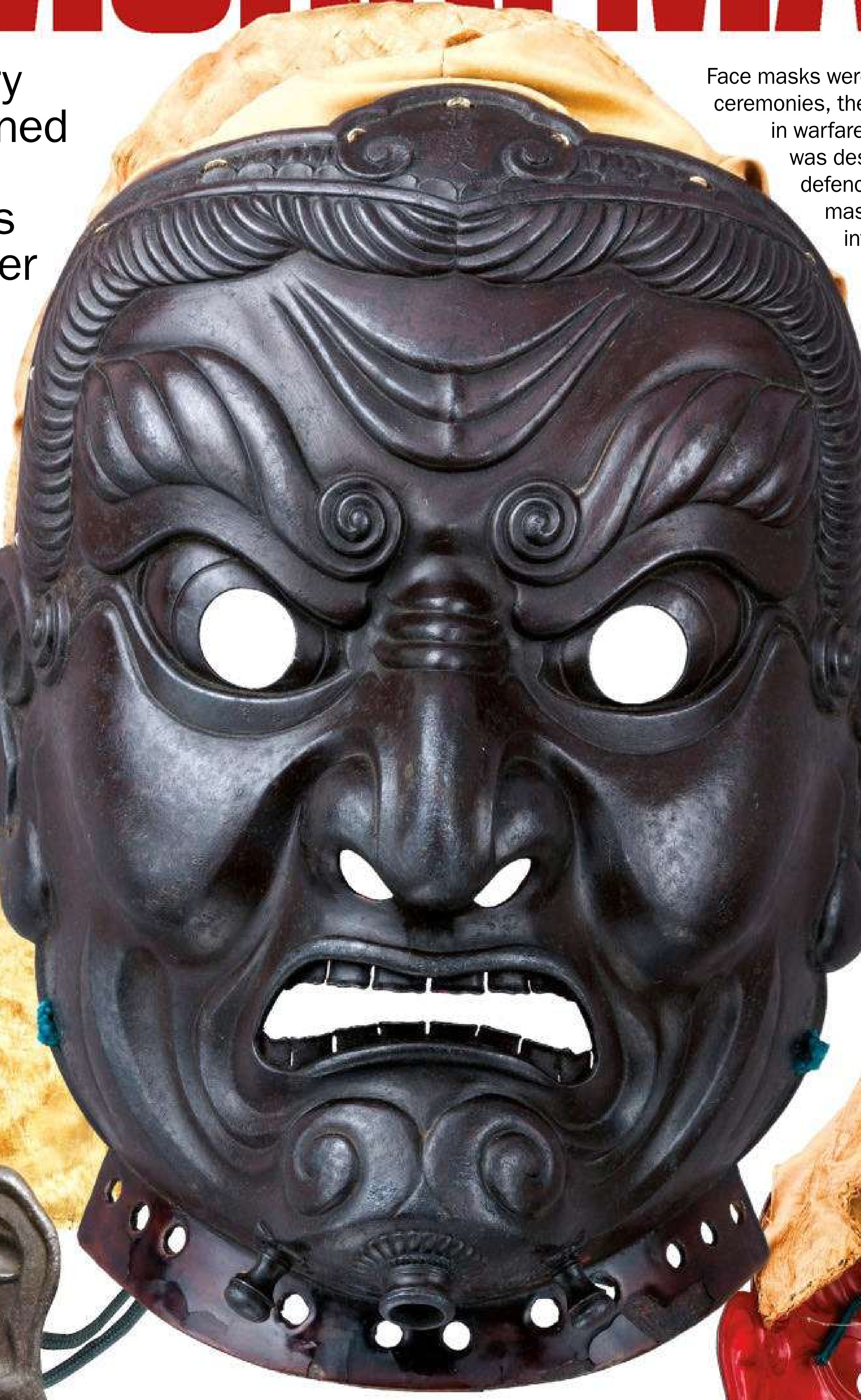
SAMURAI MASK

This 18th century mask was designed to intimidate the enemy as well as protect the wearer

Japan's Edo period was relatively peaceful compared with the civil wars and foreign invasions of previous centuries. Under the rule of the shoguns the samurai were more powerful than ever, and some of the best surviving evidence of these warriors' status and dominance are their immensely decorative pieces of armour.

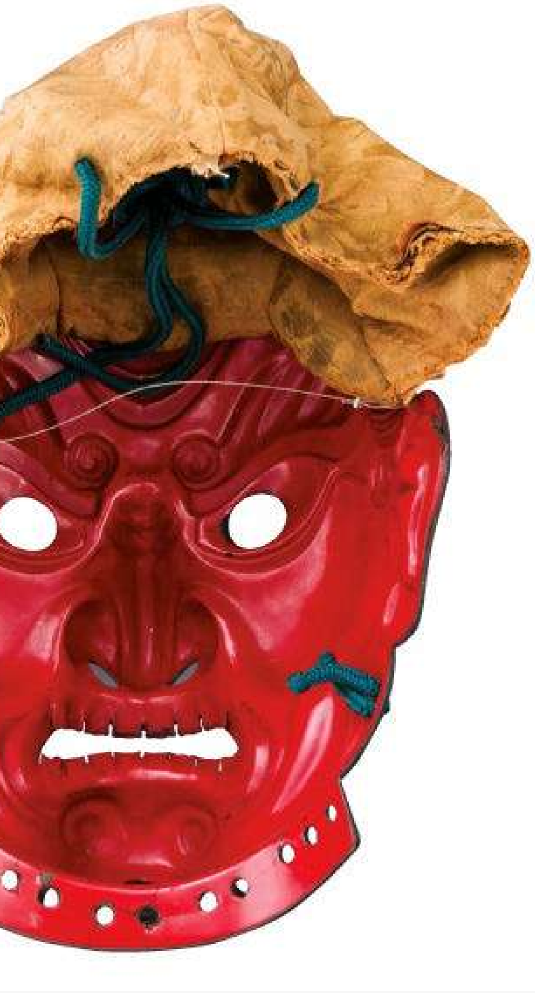
Face masks were an important part of religious ceremonies, theatre performances but also in warfare. While some facial armour was designed more for practical defence, others like this full-face mask, or somen, were designed to intimidate, impress and evoke certain spirits. This mid-18th century mask depicts the fearsome Jikokuten, the King of the East, a Buddhist deity. The top of the mask still features a silk covering that fastens around the back of the head, while the inside is lacquered red.

As well as its intimidating expression, the mask would have also offered protection to the wearer as it is made from iron. Other full face masks in the period were even fitted with removable fangs or elaborate facial hair, adding to their fearsome and macabre appearance on the battlefield.



***Right:** The masks, known as somen, were made of iron to protect the wearer's face*

***Below:** This mask depicts Jikokuten, the fearsome King of the East*



***Below:** The silk covering at the top of the mask attached it to the samurai warrior's head*

Images: Metropolitan Museum of Art

THE MET

The samurai mask is part of the collections of the Department of Arms and Armor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. For more information visit:

www.metmuseum.org

DISCOVER THE WHOLE PICTURE

When you explore your family tree, you find names, dates and places. But it's the extra details that truly reveal your family story.

Ancestry has a huge range of historical records, and with an average of two million added every day, there's always more to discover. So even when you think you know your family, they can keep surprising you.

ancestry®
Bring your backstory to life™

April Record Highlights*

Edinburgh, Scotland, Army Attestation Registers, 1796-1857 - **NEW**

U.S., Federal Census 1950 – **NEW**

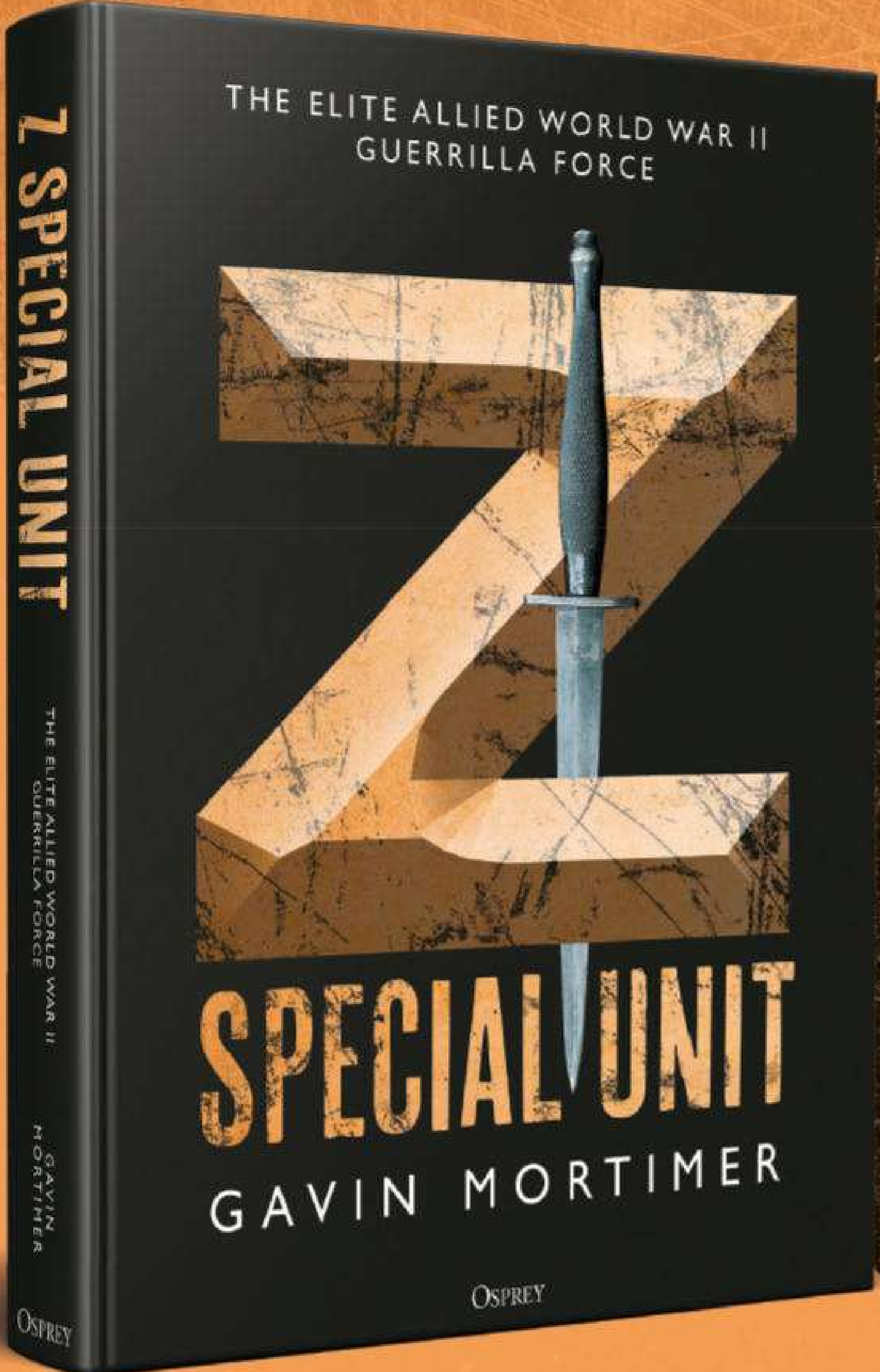
California, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1959 – **UPDATE**

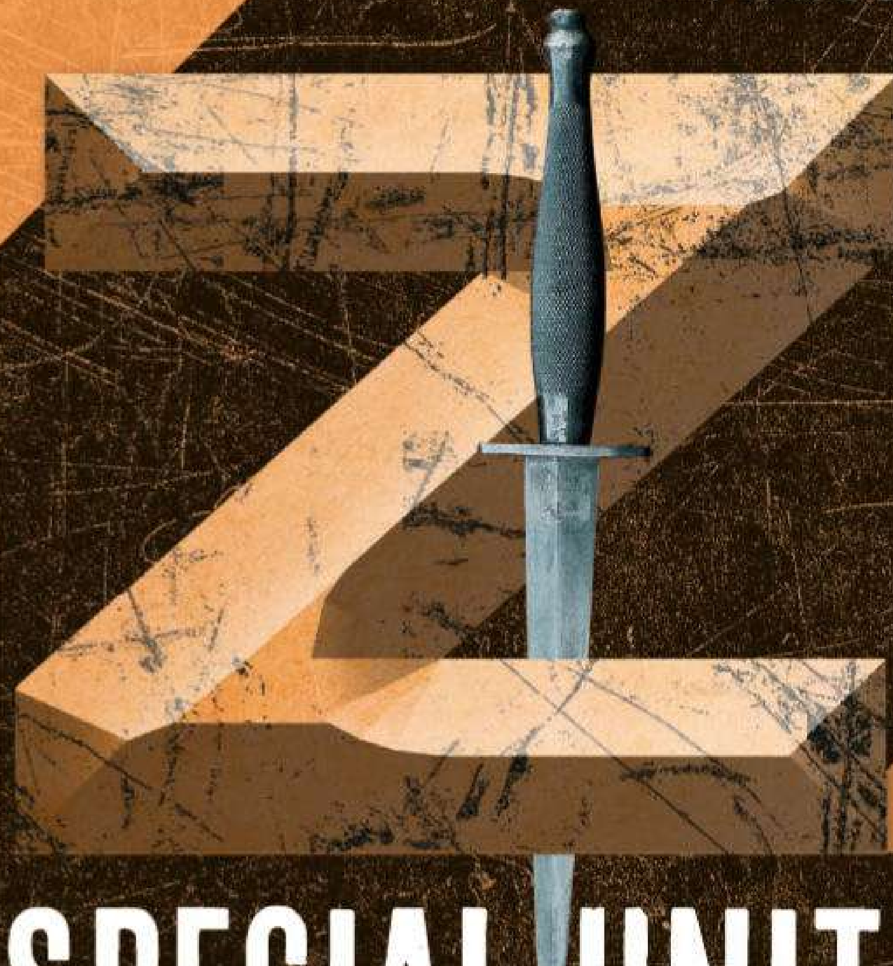
Do you have a fascinating family story to share?

We'd love to hear about your discoveries, email us at *yourstory@ancestry.co.uk*

*Record collections subject to change.

THE ELITE
ALLIED
WORLD WAR II
GUERRILLA
FORCE


THE ELITE ALLIED WORLD WAR II
GUERRILLA FORCE
Z
SPECIAL UNIT
GAVIN MORTIMER
OSPREY
Z SPECIAL UNIT
THE ELITE ALLIED WORLD WAR II GUERRILLA FORCE
GAVIN MORTIMER
OSPREY



SPECIAL UNIT

GAVIN MORTIMER

Drawing on veteran interviews, operational reports and recently declassified SOE files, in his new book Gavin Mortimer dramatically brings to life the incredible history of the remarkable Z Special Unit.

OSPREY
PUBLISHING

AVAILABLE TO ORDER FROM ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS
AND ONLINE AT WWW.OSPREYPUBLISHING.COM